The Moon and the Sandals

月とサンダル

Vol. 1

umi Yoshinaga

Parental Explicit Content Advisory

June

Yaoi Manga

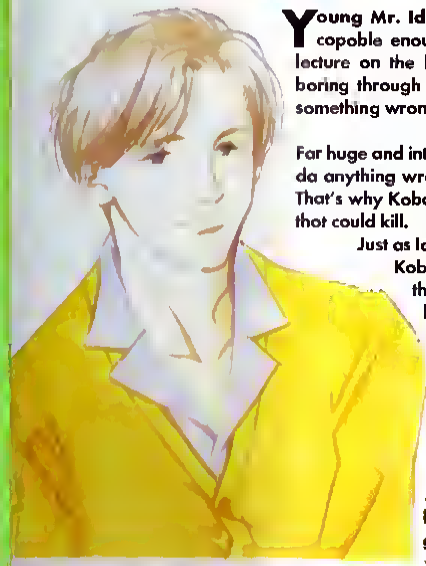
The Moon and the Sandals Vol. 1

Fumi Yoshinaga

June

The Moon and the Sandals Vol. 1

月とサンダル



Young Mr. Ida might be a newbie teacher but he is capable enough. Problem is, every time he writes his lecture on the board, he feels this deeply intense gaze boring through the back of his head. Could he be doing something wrong?

For huge and intimidating student Kobayoshi, Mr. Ida can't do anything wrong. In fact, Ida is Kabayashi's Mr. Right. That's why Kobayashi keeps giving the timid teacher looks that could kill.

Just as Ido begins to lose confidence in his teaching, Kobayoshi musters the courage to clarify that the intense gaze he gives is not one of hatred but is one of love. Spurred on by his feelings, Kabayashi ends his confession with a kiss. Ida doesn't push him away. All should be well. But it isn't. After all, the course of true love never does run smoothly.

From the creator of the award-winning Antique Bakery series comes this whimsical boys' love story that will have readers feeling good in no time. Sometimes plain, sometimes witty, sometimes bitter, sometimes sweet... experience all these and more in the magic that is The Moon and the Sandals.

MANGA / DRAMA / ROMANCE
US $12.95
M FOR MATURE AUDIENCES 18+
ISBN 13 978-1-56970-488-4
NATIVE MANGA
READ RIGHT TO LEFT
June by DMP
junemanga.com

THE Moon AND THE Sandals Vol. 1

月とサンダル

by Fumi Yoshinaga

June

THE MOON AND THE SANDALS
I'M IN LOVE WITH MR. IDA OF WORLD HISTORY
WHAT DO I LOVE ABOUT HIM..?
HIS WEAK, FRAGILE VOICE THAT MARKS HIM AS A ROOKIE TEACHER.. HIS CHILDLIKE SMILE...

The Moon and the Sandals 1

月とサンダル

The Moon and the Sandals.....3
Teacher and Hashizume.....27
Lunch on the Mountaintop.....51
Natural Born Winner.....87
Weather and Memory.....123
To Each His Place.....157

Translation	Sachiko Sato
Lettering	Replibooks
Graphic Design/Layout	Fred Lui
Editing	Bambi Eleraggo
Editor in Chief	Fred Lui
Publisher	Hikaru Sasahara

THE MOON AND THE SANDALS TSUKI TO SANDAL volume 1 © 1996 Fumi Yoshinaga. All rights reserved. First published in Japan in 1996 by HOUBUNSHA CO., LTD., Tokyo. English translation rights in United States and Canada arranged with HOUBUNSHA CO., LTD. through Tuttle Mori Agency, Inc., Tokyo. English translation copyright © 2007 by DIGITAL MANGA, Inc. All other material © 2007 by DIGITAL MANGA, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. Any likeness of characters, places, and situations featured in this publication to actual persons (living or deceased), events, places, and situations is purely coincidental. All characters depicted in sexually explicit scenes in this publication are of at least the age of consent or older. The JUNÉ logo is ™ of DIGITAL MANGA, Inc.

English Edition Published by
DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING
A division of DIGITAL MANGA, Inc.
1487 W. 178th Street, Suite 300
Gardena, CA 90248

www.dmpbooks.com

First Edition: February 2007
ISBN-10: 1-56970-824-X
ISBN-13: 978-1-56970-824-8

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in China

HE'S JUST PLAIN CUTE!! YOU DON'T NEED A REASON TO LOVE!!
THE COWLICK IN HIS HAIR, HIS BARGAIN-BASEMENT-LOOKING POLO SHIRT, HIS CRAPPY HANDWRITING ON THE CHALKBOARD... OHHH! ANYWAY -
ALL RIGHT! I'M GONNA CONFESS TO HIM TODAY FOR SURE!!
NOT VERY SMART
S SOMEHOW I FEEL THAT TODAY'S THE DAY MY FEELINGS WILL GET THROUGH TO HIM!
HE NOTICED ME!!
NO, NOW THAT I LOOK MORE CLOSELY, HE SEEMS TO BE GRINNING SLIGHTLY. JUST WHAT DOES HE HAVE AGAINST MY TEACHING METHODS...?
HE'S BURLY TOO SCARY
H-HE'S GLARING AT ME AGAIN.. IF I RECALL, HIS NAME'S KOICHI KOBAYASHI

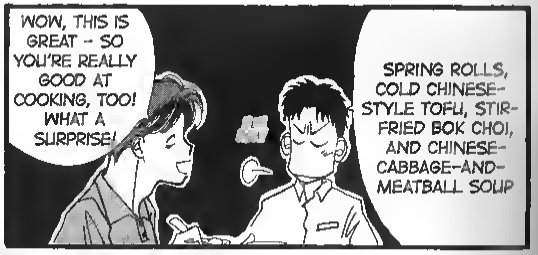
105
IDA
THIS IS THE PLACE!
IT SHOULD BE THIS BUILDING ROOM 105
UMM...
LEAVE!
I'M HERE - !!
I...
C... CALM DOWN, MY HEART! FIRST, I RING THE DOORBELL - THEN THE TEACHER COMES TO THE DOOR, AND AFTER THAT...
BA-THUMP BA-THUMP BA-THUMP BA-THUMP
CREAK
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN YOU MY ANSWER!

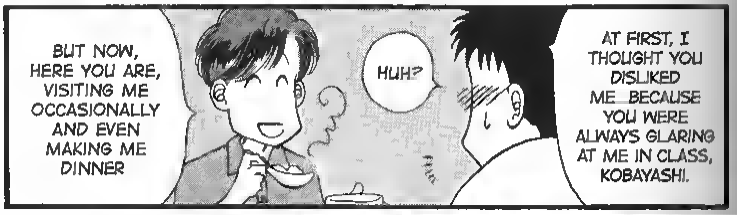
WELL, LATER
OH...
105
TOA
?
!
I FEEL A GAZE
AAHHH?!
GLARE
KOBAYASHI?
TEA... CHER --
QUIET! EXPLAIN IT TO ME SO I UNDERSTAND, DAMMIT!!
W...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
WHAT WAS THAT?! WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?! HUH?!

I'LL ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME -
TEACH-.
WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
I SEE
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE

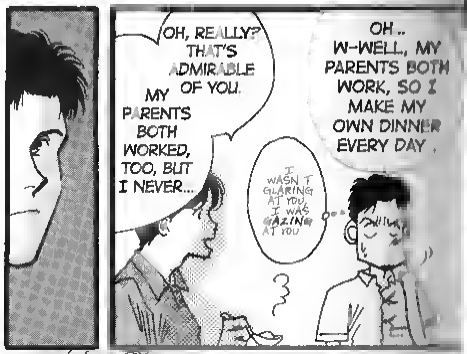
I PROMISE I WON'T TELL ANYONE! SO –
D..DON'T QUIT AFTER ALL – OKAY, TEACH?!
DON'T QUIT!
WHAT?!
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO HIDE THE FACT THAT I'M GAY, SOONER OR LATER I'M SURE TO BE FOUND OUT LIKE I DID TODAY...SO MAYBE I REALLY SHOULD CHANGE PROFESSIONS .
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...
WAIT A MINUTE!! I WON'T TELL ANYONE!!
...THANK YOU.
UM –
TEACH – IS IT OKAY IF I COME HERE AGAIN?
HUH?!
FORGET IT!! I JUST LIKE YOUR WORLD HISTORY CLASS A LITTLE, THAT'S ALL...
F.
ON TOP OF THAT, GIVING ME ENCOURAGEMENT, TOO. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY..
THANKS FOR LISTENING I COULD NEVER HAVE TOLD ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THIS...
SNIFF
SOB

Y..
YEAH..
HE'S YOUR LOVER, RIGHT?
THAT MAN YOU SAW... WE WERE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSMATES, AND HE'S A PROFESSIONAL CHEF NOW...
BESIDES, HE'S VERY TALENTED AT HIS YOUNG AGE, HE'S BEEN HEAD-HUNTED BY A FAMOUS RESTAURANT IN KYOTO
HEY! JOB DIFFERENCES DON'T MATTER!
DIFFERENT JOBS
SLURRP
BUT A CHEF? YOU GUYS DON'T SEEM RIGHT TOGETHER!
SO THAT'S WHERE HE WAS ASKING YOU TO GO WITH HIM JUST NOW
BUT AS A TEACHER, I'M A LOCAL PUBLIC SERVANT. I CAN ONLY TRANSFER WITHIN THE CITY...
DAMM!
YOU SHOULD JUST GO WITH HIM TO KYOTO!! IF YOU LOVE HIM!!
TH... THEN –
BUT..
ARRGH!
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM TO BECOME A TEACHER OF HISTORY –
THEN WHY DON'T YOU QUIT TEACHING AND GET A DIFFERENT JOB?!
DORAEMON HANDS
WAAAH! BUT..
SCARY


WOW, THIS IS GREAT - SO YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT COOKING, TOO! WHAT A SURPRISE!
SPRING ROLLS, COLD CHINESE-STYLE TOFU, STIR-FRIED BOK CHOI, AND CHINESE-CABBAGE-AND-MEATBALL SOUP


BUT NOW, HERE YOU ARE, VISITING ME OCCASIONALLY AND EVEN MAKING ME DINNER
HUH?
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT YOU DISLIKED ME...BECAUSE YOU WERE ALWAYS GLARING AT ME IN CLASS, KOBAYASHI.

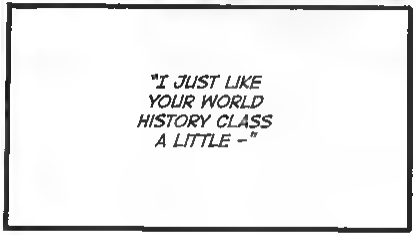
THAT FACE JUST NOW -
HE DOESN'T MAKE THAT FACE AT SCHOOL. IT'S A FACE ONLY I'M SEEING RIGHT NOW
T-...


OH, REALLY? THAT'S ADMIRABLE OF YOU.
MY PARENTS BOTH WORKED, TOO, BUT I NEVER...
I WASN'T GLARING AT YOU, I WAS GAZING AT YOU
OH.. W-WELL, MY PARENTS BOTH WORK, SO I MAKE MY OWN DINNER EVERY DAY.

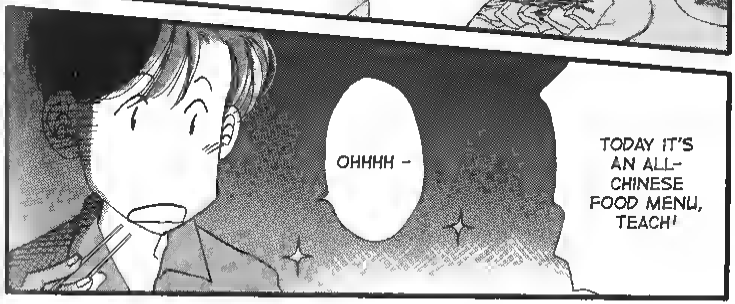
OH.

"NO - IT'S YOU THAT I LOVE...A LOT, TEACHER..."
...BUT I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO ADD THE REST OF IT.

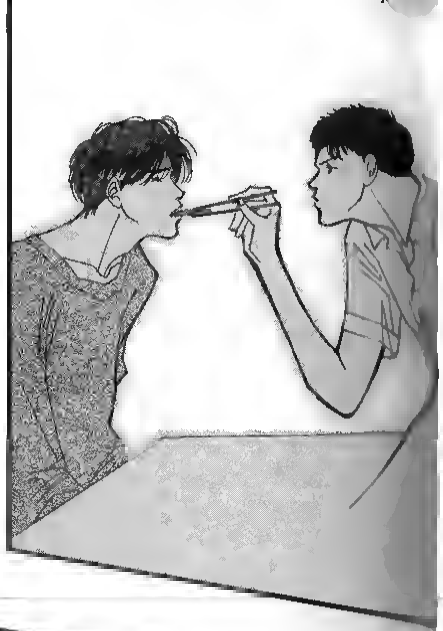
OF COURSE

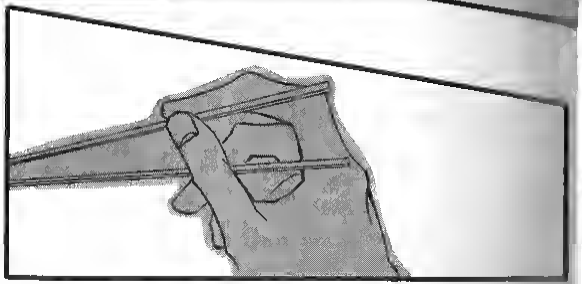

"I JUST LIKE YOUR WORLD HISTORY CLASS A LITTLE -"

THERE!


OHHHH -
TODAY IT'S AN ALL-CHINESE FOOD MENU, TEACH!

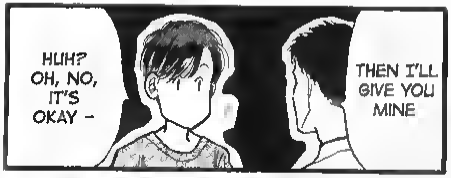
YOU ONLY NEED ONE GUY - ME - WHO CAN COOK WELL FOR YOU. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, TEACH?
"SO YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT COOKING, TOO -"
CLATTER!
PRRRRR
...I UNDER-STAND
YES.
-OH - MR. MIYAZAWA.
OH, YES - THE RESEARCH SEMINAR NEXT WEEK, YES.
HELLO! THIS IS IDA!
CHAK!
CHK
CHNK
CHNK
CHNK
TEACH -
YOU'VE HARDLY EATEN
HUH?
DON'T SIT AROUND WAITING FOR THAT GUY TO CALL.
TEACHER -

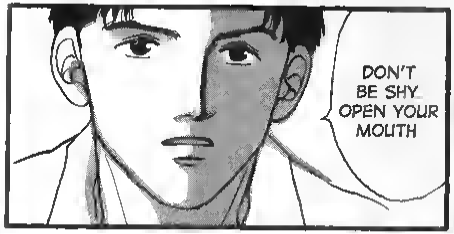




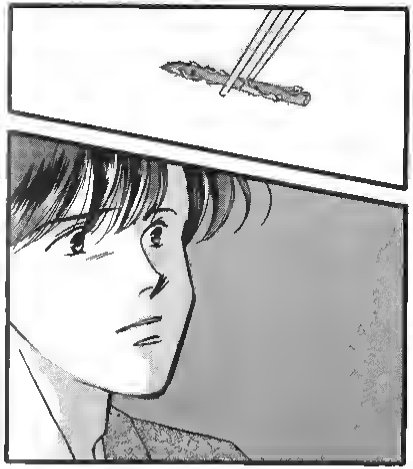
IT...IT BURNED MY MOUTH-!!
GAH!
CLATTER!
HOTTTT - !!

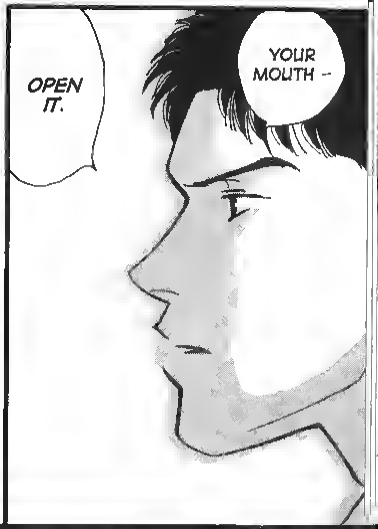
H -

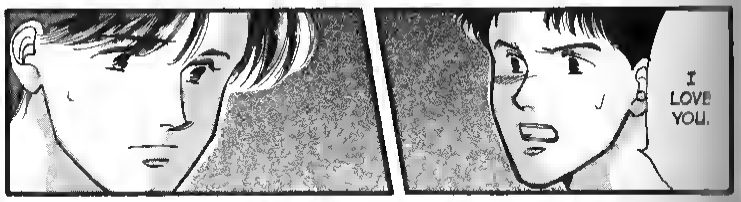

HUH? OH, NO, IT'S OKAY -
THEN I'LL GIVE YOU MINE

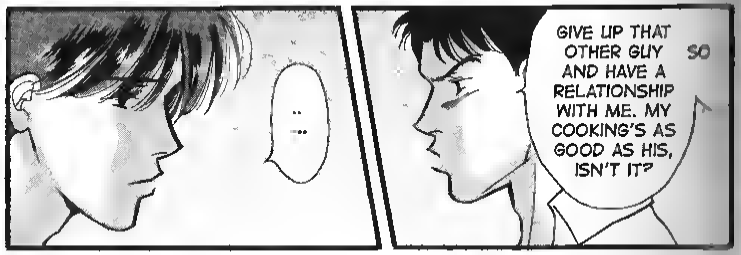

DON'T BE SHY. OPEN YOUR MOUTH

THE TEMPURA'S GREAT I ATE ALL THE ASPARAGUS ALREADY.
THAT'S NOT TRUE -



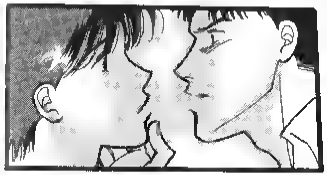

OPEN IT.
YOUR MOUTH -


I LOVE YOU.


...
...
SO GIVE UP THAT OTHER GUY AND HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH ME. MY COOKING'S AS GOOD AS HIS, ISN'T IT?

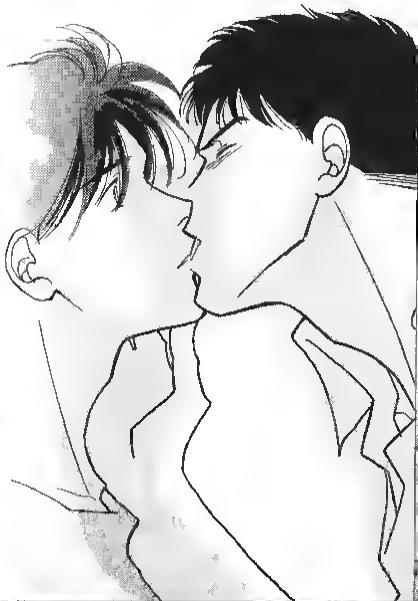
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME AN ANSWER TODAY I'LL COME BACK AGAIN TOMORROW!
SEE YOU!
SLAM!

I JUST HAVE TO LICK IT TO COOL OFF..
I'M OKAY..
I THINK
SORRY!! A..ARE YOU OKAY, TEACH?!



KOBA-YASHI..

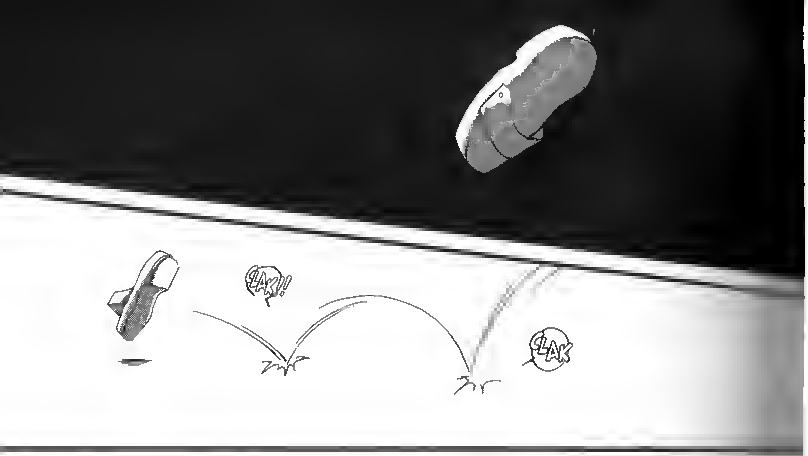
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?! I KISSED... I KISSED YOU!!
NO!!
W..WERE YOU JUST LICKING MY WOUND FOR ME BECAUSE I BURNED MY MOUTH..?

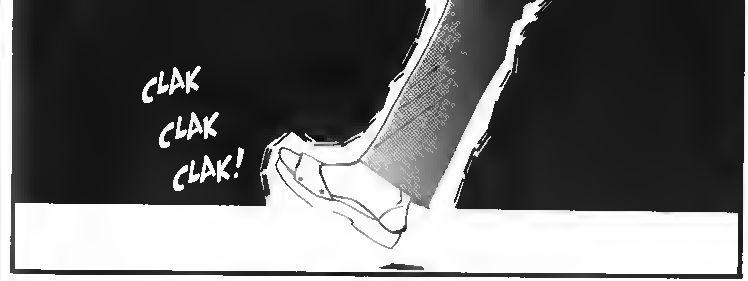


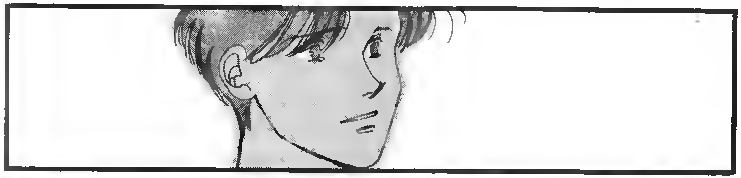
KOBA-.
THAT'S ALL I WANT FOR NOW. SO -
DING DONG DING DONG DING DONG
I'D ALREADY QUIT THE OTHER PLACE, IT TOOK SOME TIME UNTIL I COULD FIND A NEW RESTAURANT IN TOKYO.
I COULDN'T CALL YOU UNTIL I KNEW FOR SURE
DING
DONG

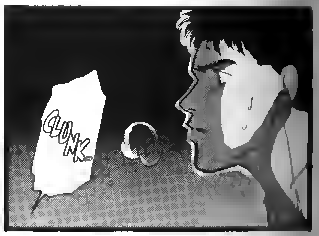
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE HASN'T CONTACTED ME IN SO LONG.
IF I SAY YES TO YOU NOW, KOBAYASHI - I'D ONLY BE USING YOU AS A SUBSTITUTE.
I'M SORRY
IT'S NOT AS IF WE HAVEN'T FOUGHT BEFORE, BUT...
BUT... N...NO, NOT AT ALL -
THEN THAT'S FINE.
DID YOU DISLIKE BEING KISSED BY ME YESTERDAY?
TEACH -

?
OH!
KOBA-...!!
BAM!
KA-KLAK!
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE
KYOTO IS OUT. I WENT THERE TO TURN THE OFFER DOWN MYSELF.
TOKYO..?
LET'S LIVE TOGETHER.
OHH - SHOES, SHOES!
IDA.
THAT KOBAYASHI! HE RAN ON IN MY SANDALS!!
HUH?
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK!
WAIT...
KOBAYA-SHI!!
CLATTER!!
GRAB





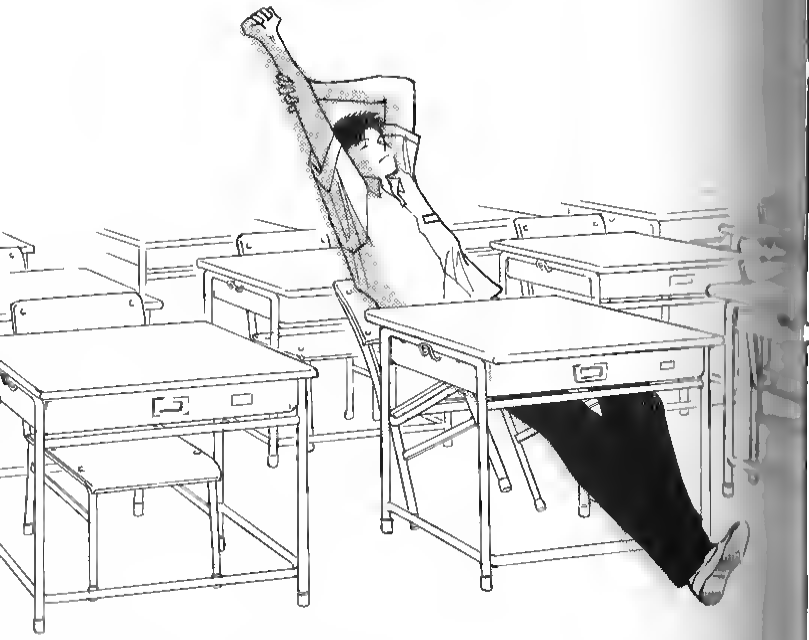




I WAS NEVER ABLE TO BRING SUCH A HAPPY EXPRESSION TO TEACHER'S FACE

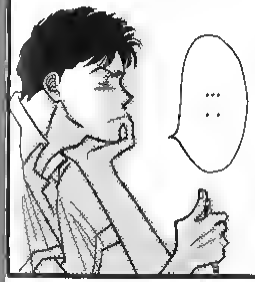
I COULDN'T DO IT -

IF HE DOES...I'LL SMILE AS I TAKE 'EM BACK FROM HIM, AND ACCEPT MY BROKEN HEART WITH FLAIR.

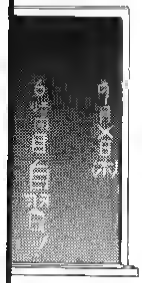


END

WHEN I THOUGHT OF THE REASON WHY, IT WAS LIKE RUBBING SALT IN MY WOUND, BUT I DECIDED I WOULD GRIN AND BEAR IT.

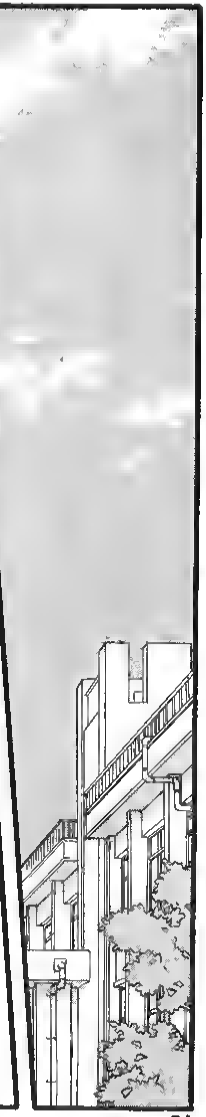


THE NEXT DAY, TEACH WAS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL.

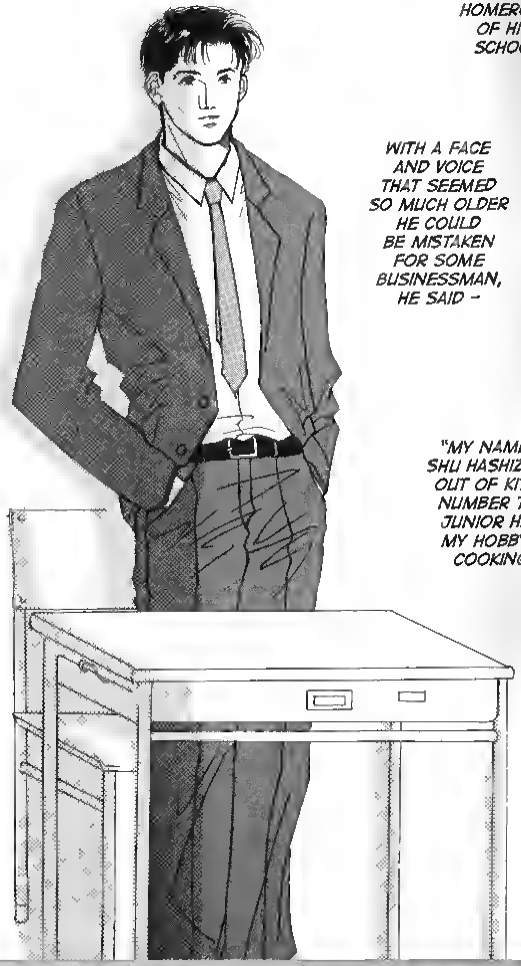


IF I KNOW TEACH, HE'LL APOLOGIZE TO ME WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES.

I WONDER IF HE'LL BRING MY SNEAKERS BACK TO ME...



TEACHER AND HASHIZUME

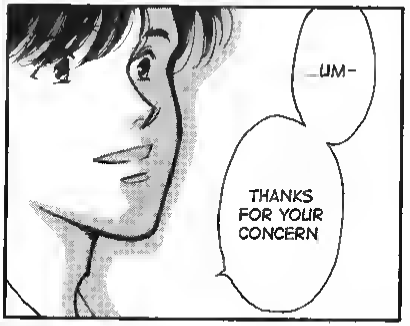

IT WAS IN OUR FIRST HOMEROOM OF HIGH SCHOOL.
WITH A FACE AND VOICE THAT SEEMED SO MUCH OLDER HE COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR SOME BUSINESSMAN, HE SAID –
"MY NAME IS SHU HASHIZUME, OUT OF KITAMI NUMBER TWO JUNIOR HIGH MY HOBBY IS COOKING."
AND NOW, OUR EIGHTH WINTER SINCE THAT FIRST MEETING IS APPROACHING.

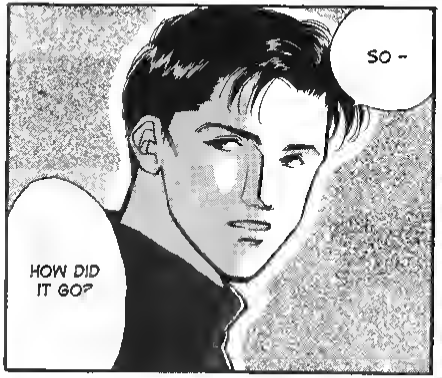
UH -
...
IS IT BECAUSE NO ONE WANTS TO RENT TO TWO DUDES LIVING TOGETHER?
"TWO MALE TENANTS.. MOST LANDLORDS OBJECT TO THAT, YOU SEE. THEY WORRY THE PLACE WILL BECOME MESSY AND, UNLIKE FEMALE TENANTS, MALE TENANTS TEND NOT TO STAY AS LONG.. AND MALE TENANTS ALSO TEND TO BE LESS RELIABLE WITH THE RENT AT CONTRACT RENEWAL TIME
OF COURSE IT'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STORY IF YOU RE BROTHERS, OR OTHER CLOSE FAMILY RELATION."
OH!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO MENTION THAT HERE, KOBAYASHI!!!
AAAH!!
OH, SO THAT'S IT - I THOUGHT THEY WOULDN'T RENT OUT TO YOU 'CUZ YOU'RE A GAY COUPLE.

SOCIAL STUDIES
HEEEY, TEACH -
SO WHEN ARE YOU FINALLY GOING TO HAND ME THAT VCR OF YOURS?
SORRY, SORRY - IT'S JUST THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND A PLACE TO MOVE INTO YET.
MY VCR'S ON THE FRITZ, SO I WISH YOU'D HURRY UP ABOUT IT!
HIS NAME IS HASHIZUME AND KOBAYASHI - PLEASE KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN ABOUT THAT..
YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA HAVE ONE TO SPARE, SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO MOVE IN WITH THAT LOVER DUDE OF YOURS!
OH, WHO CARES - NO ONE'S AROUND RIGHT NOW

I'LL BE LEAVING SOON.
I MADE YOU DINNER, SO EAT IT LATER
THANKS.
NOTHING AGAIN TODAY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HASHIZUME ..? AREN'T YOU GOING TO THE RESTAURANT ..?

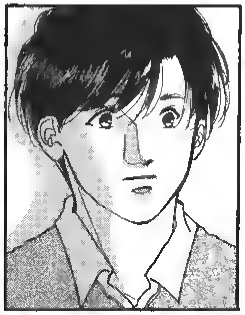
"OF COURSE IT'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STORY IF YOU ARE BROTHERS, OR OTHER CLOSE FAMILY RELATION..."





IF IT SEEMS DIFFICULT, THERE'S NO HURRY I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN DOING FINE LIVING SEPARATELY ALL THIS TIME ANYWAY
- AND ABOUT THE ROOM...

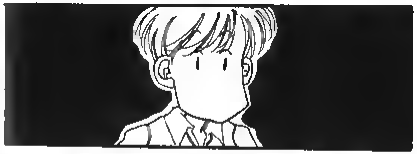
...THEN WHY DID YOU ASK ME...
...TO LIVE WITH YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE?



I THOUGHT HE MEANT "LET'S BE TOGETHER, NOW AND ALWAYS"
...BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT THAT SORT OF THING...
...I VOLUNTEERED TO BE THE ONE GOING ROUND TO THE REALTORS

THAT'S WHAT GAYS CALL MARRIAGE, RIGHT? THEN WE'LL HAVE THE SAME LAST NAMES AND WE'LL BE BROTHERS, TOO.
THEN SHALL WE JUST REALLY BECOME FAMILY? ONE OF US COULD JUST ADOPT THE OTHER -
NAHAHA-
WHAT DO YOU THINK, HASHIZUME?

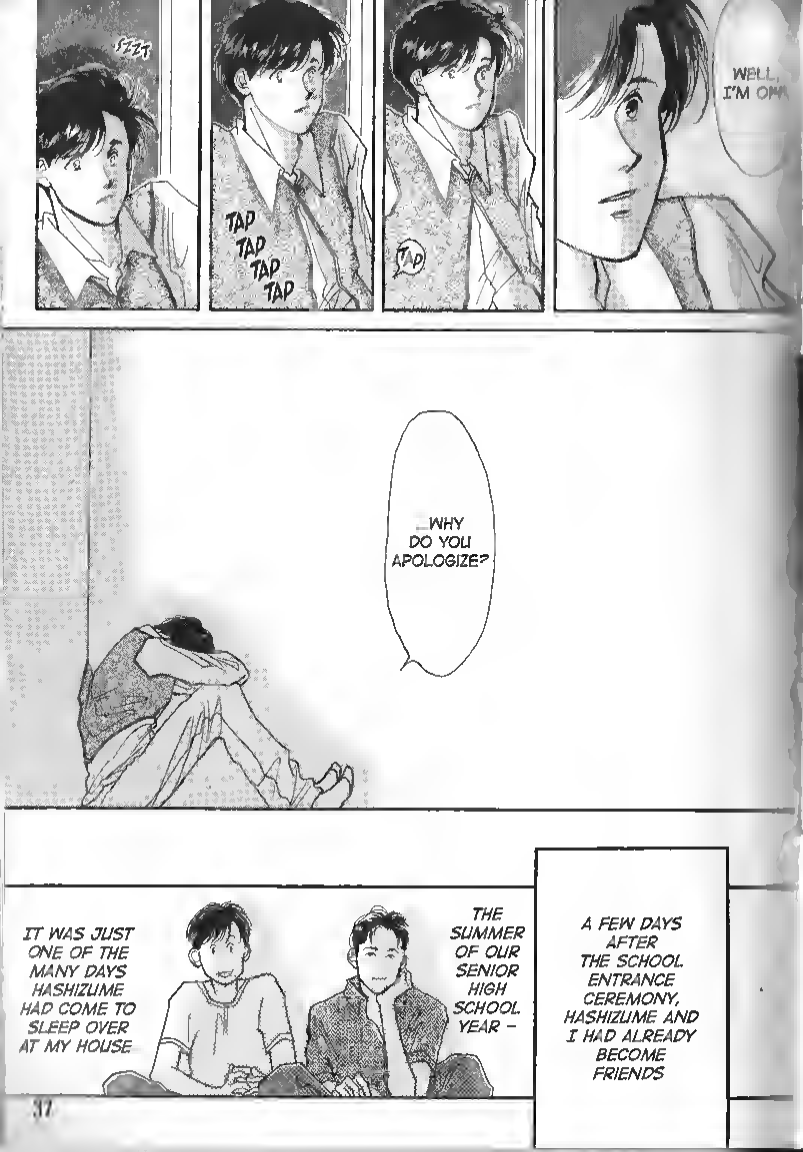
BUT, I MEAN, WE CAN'T JUST LIE AND SAY WE'RE BROTHERS...
...IS WHAT HE SAID
NO, I SUPPOSE NOT.
A FAKE NAME PROBABLY WOULDN'T WORK EITHER, ESPECIALLY NOT WITH YOU



...BUT ISN'T SOMETHING LIKE THAT STILL A LITTLE EARLY FOR US...?
NO... IT'S NOT THAT...
...I'M JUST KIDDING YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO -
DON'T BE SO EMBARRASSED!

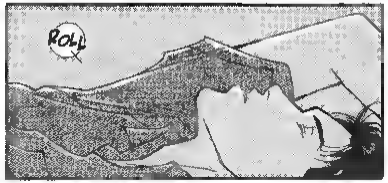
A—
AND BESIDES — YOU'VE NEVER ONCE TOLD ME STRAIGHT TO MY FACE THAT YOU LOVE ME, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!
I'M THE ONE WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU FIRST, TOO!!
HEY!!
—I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR WORK.
YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY AGAIN!! IT'S UNFAIR!!
KCHAK
IF THAT'S SO, THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT?!
YOU'RE JUST GOING OUT WITH ME BECAUSE YOU'RE A NICE GUY AND CAN'T SAY NO — AREN'T YOU?!
OH —
SLAP!

I'VE EVEN PUT OFF MY RESEARCH FOR DAYS GETTING TO THE REALTORS— OBTAINING COPIES OF ROOM LAYOUTS—
PLEASE, DON'T CRY!
PANIC
?! I—IDA?!
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I—IT'S NOT THAT AT ALL!
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO AVOID EVERYTHING OUT OF EMBARRASSMENT LIKE THIS, WE'LL EVENTUALLY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BREAK UP! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?!
IF WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER, THERE'S SURE TO BE LOTS OF OTHER DIFFICULTIES LIKE THIS IN THE FUTURE!
BUT I DON'T MIND THAT! THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!
I...
UH...
UM...
WANTS TO EXPLAIN THAT HE SAID IT OUT OF CONCERN THE APARTMENT HUNTING WAS TOO MUCH OF A STRAIN ON IDA BUT CAN'T
SEE, YOU NEVER SAY ANYTHING!! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!
—BUT I HAD NO IDEA YOU NEVER EVEN WANTED US TO—

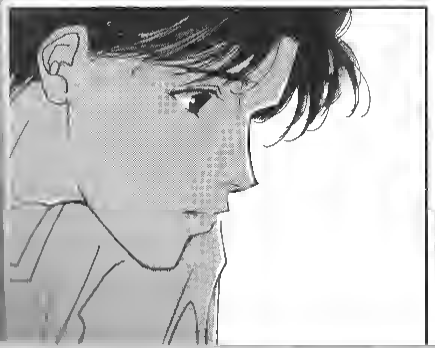

SIZZ
TAP TAP TAP TAP
TAP
WELL, I'M OMA
...WHY DO YOU APOLOGIZE?
IT WAS JUST ONE OF THE MANY DAYS HASHIZUME HAD COME TO SLEEP OVER AT MY HOUSE
THE SUMMER OF OUR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL YEAR –
A FEW DAYS AFTER THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY, HASHIZUME AND I HAD ALREADY BECOME FRIENDS

TEKKEN-STYLE LOVER'S SPAT
ボ
ガ
!! WHAMMO!!
SLAM!
THUD
CRASH!
I'M SORRY I HIT YOU...
!
...IDA...
HURRY UP AND GO! YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR WORK, AREN'T YOU?!
-SHAH-

ZSHHH-
...
...


ROLL

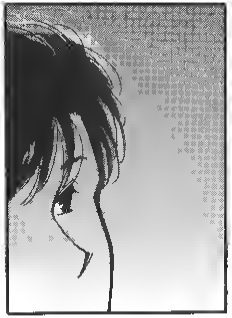
HASHI-
ZUME?
HEY, HASHIZUME! I'LL GET OUT THE FUTON -
ZZZ-



I TOLD HIM
JUST THAT IT WAS UNUSUAL -
...AND SORRY THAT HE COULDN'T GIVE ME MORE ADVICE
DID THE TEACHER SAY ANYTHING?
...
...

WHAT ABOUT YOU? HOW ARE YOUR STUDIES GOING?
OHHH - DON'T ASK!
IDA...
IS THIS WHAT YOU INVITED ME OVER TODAY TO TALK ABOUT?

SO, HASHIZUME - DID YOU TELL THE TEACHER ABOUT YOU WANTING TO BECOME A CHEF?
PSHHT

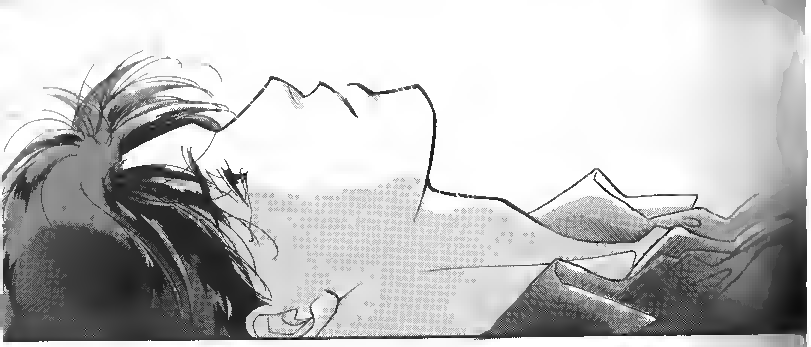


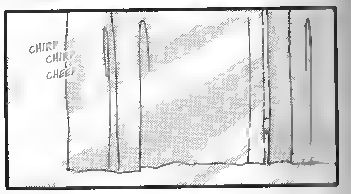
I SEE.

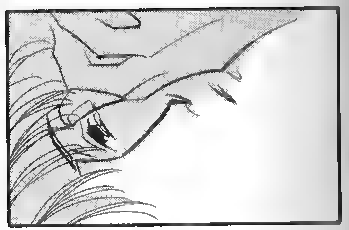
...HUH?
NO REASON - IT'S JUST LIKE ALWAYS, EXCEPT MY PARENTS AREN'T HERE THIS TIME...

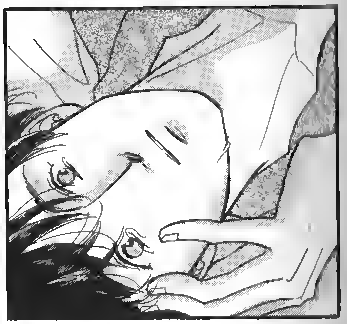
SORRY!!

I'M SO -
I'M SORRY!
SORRY!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
DON'T APOLOGIZE!
I_ I'LL GO SLEEP IN THE GUEST ROOM - !! I'M SO SORRY_!!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE_!
OH_









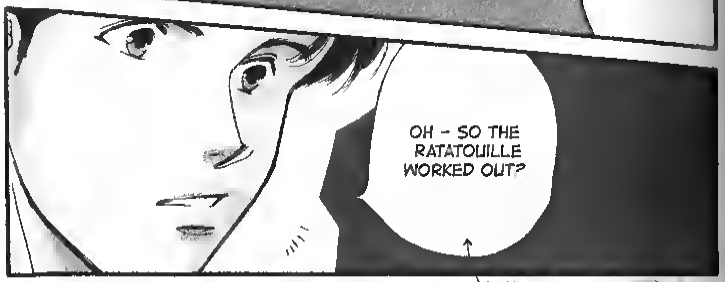
HE SPOKE
IN A LOW,
WHISPERED
VOICE

AND YET, I –
HE SAID IT QUIETLY, BUT SO I COULD HEAR…
IT WAS DARK AND I COULDN'T SEE HIS FACE… BUT HE MUST HAVE BEEN BLUSHING UP TO THE TIPS OF HIS EARS AS HE SAID IT TO ME…
…I LOVE YOU, TOO.
HE'S NOT ANSWERING…
PRRR
PRRR
PRRR
LO DING DONG
I'VE GOTTA APOLOGIZE TO HIM!!
I SAID SUCH A HORRIBLE THING TO HIM… AND EVEN PUNCHED HIM, TOO – !
OH NO!

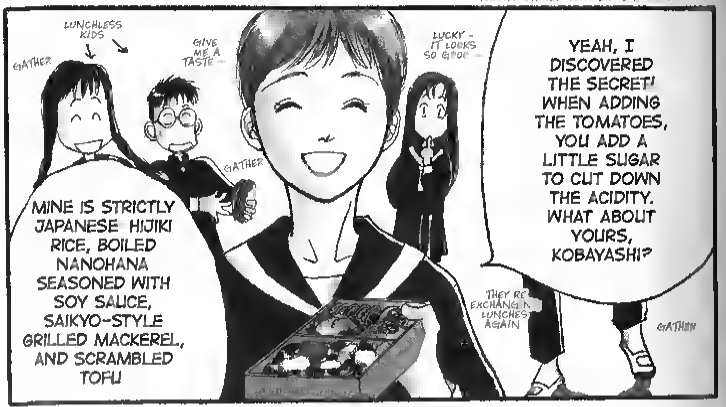
APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION
HEISEI YEAR MONTH DAY DATE OF APPLICATION
NAME
GOOD MORNING
UH…
IT SEEMS THAT WHOEVER'S OLDER BECOMES THE FOSTER PARENT…

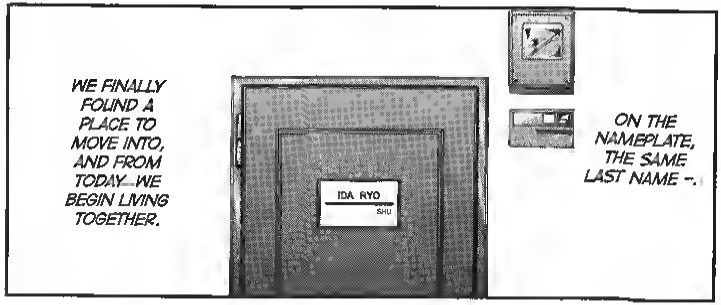
THE FORMS LOOKED OLD AND SLIGHTLY WORN. THAT'S WHEN I KNEW – HASHIZUME HADN'T JUST THOUGHT ABOUT THIS TODAY OR YESTERDAY.
THAT ONE WON'T DO US MUCH GOOD, BUT
..WOULD YOU ACCEPT IT ANYWAY?
..IT'S OKAY
I'M SORRY – I'M FINE
!!
I – IDA! NOW WHAT..?
OH NO I DID IT AGAIN!
NOW I KNOW I CAN SAY IT, TOO –
HASHIZUME –

AS LONG AS OUR LAST NAMES ARE THE SAME, IT WON'T BE UNNATURAL TO SAY WE'RE BROTHERS
THEN IT WILL BE EASIER TO FIND A PLACE TO RENT
B – BUT WHY DID YOU ..?
ACCORDING TO BIRTH-DATE, YOU'D BE DESIGNATED AS THE PARENT
THIS
..IS THAT ALL?
REGISTRY OF MARRIAGE
HASHIZUME!!
IF IT'S ABOUT YESTERDAY, I APOLOGIZE!! I WAS WRONG SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS –
LOOK AT THE OTHER PIECE OF PAPER
HUH?
NO –
UH



TOMATO-STEWED SUMMER VEGETABLES


LUNCHLESS KIDS
GATHER
GIVE ME A TASTE -
GATHER
LUCKY - IT LOOKS SO GOOD! -
MINE IS STRICTLY JAPANESE HIJIKI RICE, BOILED NANOHANA SEASONED WITH SOY SAUCE, SAIKYO-STYLE GRILLED MACKEREL, AND SCRAMBLED TOFU
YEAH, I DISCOVERED THE SECRET! WHEN ADDING THE TOMATOES, YOU ADD A LITTLE SUGAR TO CUT DOWN THE ACIDITY. WHAT ABOUT YOURS, KOBAYASHI?
THEY'RE EXCHANGING LUNCHES AGAIN
GATHER

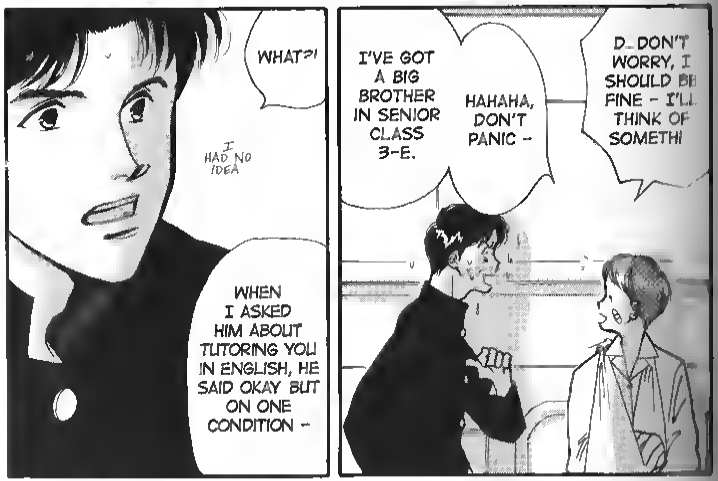

WE FINALLY FOUND A PLACE TO MOVE INTO, AND FROM TODAY...WE BEGIN LIVING TOGETHER.
IDA RYO
SHU
ON THE NAMEPLATE, THE SAME LAST NAME -.

END

HUH?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, NARU-CHAN?! THIS GUY - GAY? THAT WOULD BE AN INSULT TO GAY PEOPLE!!
BESIDES, KOBAYASHI IS GAY - HE DOESN'T LIKE GIRLS.
HAHAHAHAHA
NO ONE BELIEVES IT
YEAH
BESIDES, I'M ALWAYS TELLING YOU - NARU-CHAN IS NOT MY GIRLFRIEND! SHE'S MY LUNCH COMPANION AND STUDY BUDDY!
HEH! YOU GUYS SURE TALK BIG AS YOU PILFER OUR LUNCHES!
DOES COPYING DOWN HER NOTES WORD FOR WORD REALLY QUALIFY YOU AS BEING HER "STUDY BUDDY"?
RIGHT?
ANYWAY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ENGLISH STUDIES - I'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

OH, I'VE GOT IT COVERED!! NEXT TIME I'LL BRING THE COMPLETE TRANSLATION OF THE READER AND SELECTED COMPOSITION AND GRAMMAR PROBLEMS WHICH WILL LIKELY TO APPEAR ON THE TEST, SO WAIT FOR THOSE!
HEY, NARU-CHAN... ABOUT THE ENGLISH TEST ON THE NEXT MID-TERMS...
シャ
WHOOSH!!
SOUND OF HANDS DEFEATING LUNCH
I KNOW.
THAT WAS LIKE WATCHING A SWARM OF PIRANHAS JUST NOW.
YEAH! HAVING YOUR GIRLFRIEND PIGGYBACK YOU ALL THE TIME IN YOUR STUDIES... WHAT A LOSER!
KOBAYASHI... HAVE YOU NO SHAME AT ALL?
THANK YOU... YOU'RE SUCH A NICE PERSON, GODDESS RIKUKO NARUMI!
WHAT ABOUT YOU THEN?

I'M SORRY... I WAS JUST AMBLING ALONG WITHOUT PAYING ATTENTION – THEN A BIKE...
WHA–?!
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?! YOUR LIFE'S NOT IN ANY DANGER, IS IT?!
NO... BUT I'VE GOT FRACTURES IN MY RIGHT ARM AND LEG...
HERE'S A GET-WELL SOON GIFT
THANK YOU


WHAT?!
I HAD NO IDEA
WHEN I ASKED HIM ABOUT TUTORING YOU IN ENGLISH, HE SAID OKAY BUT ON ONE CONDITION –
I'VE GOT A BIG BROTHER IN SENIOR CLASS 3-E.
HAHAHA, DON'T PANIC –
D...DON'T WORRY, I SHOULD BE FINE – I'LL THINK OF SOMETHI

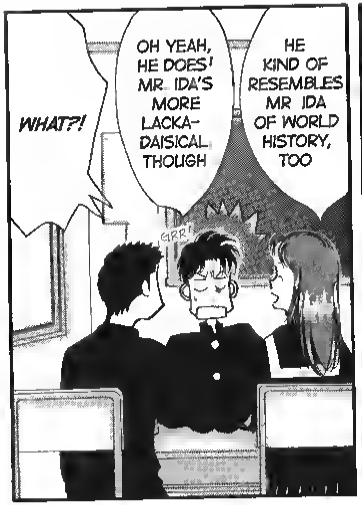
BUT MISFORTUNE ALWAYS ARRIVES UNEXPECTEDLY

...IS THAT ALL?
YEAH, THOSE ARE HIS TERMS
IS THAT OKAY?
YOU SEE, I ALWAYS MAKE HIS LUNCH EVERY DAY...SO YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY PLACE AND MAKE HIM HIS LUNCH FOR AWHILE...
KOBAYASHI, MY HAND... YOU'RE HURTING IT...
HUH - ? OH COME ON... HE HE HE - OWW
OF COURSE IT'S OKAY!! OHHH, NARU-CHAN YOU REALLY ARE A NICE PERSON!!
153 CM →
← 186 CM

"JUST STICK MY BROTHER'S LUNCH IN HIS LOCKER EVERY DAY. HIS COMBINATION IS..."
WHAT? YOU GUYS KNOW NARU-CHAN'S BIG BROTHER?
WHAT?! YOU'RE HAVING THAT NARUMI-SAN TUTOR YOU?!
IT'S LIKE... I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO BE JEALOUS OR FRIGHTENED...
IS THERE A KOICHI KOBAYASHI HERE?!
SIR TOYO OF THE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB? OF COURSE WE KNOW WHO HE IS - HE'S TOTALLY FAMOUS...

SLAP!
HERE'S SOME HOMEWORK - AND THIS IS A LIST OF MY FAVORITE FOODS
SLAM!!
YOU'D BETTER STUDY UP ON YOUR COOKING, TOO.
JUST HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS SCHOOL WHICH HAS A 98% COLLEGE ENTRANCE SUCCESS RATE?!
AND FROM WHAT RIKUKO TELLS ME, YOU'RE A FOOL WHO CAN'T EVEN READ PRONUNCIATION SYMBOLS PROPERLY.
I'LL TUTOR YOU BUT BEFORE YOU ASK ME ABOUT PROBABLE TEST QUESTIONS AND WHATNOT, AT LEAST KNOW YOUR SVOC*!
[* "SVOC" = SUBJECT-VERB-OBJECT-COMPLEMENT ENGLISH SENTENCE STRUCTURE.]

I'M RIKUKO NARUMI'S OLDER BROTHER.
BAM!
IT'S INEDIBLE! BE MORE CAREFUL STARTING TOMORROW!
YOUR LUNCH SUCKS.
YEAH - I'M KOBAYASHI.


WHAT?!
OH YEAH, HE DOES! MR. IDA'S MORE LACKA-DAISICAL THOUGH
HE KIND OF RESEMBLES MR. IDA OF WORLD HISTORY, TOO
GIRR!

AND HIS NAME - TOYO NARUMI - SOUNDS SO GRAND, TOO!
THAT UNPREDICTABILITY IS WHAT MAKES HIM SO SCARY AND COOL!
SO WE CALL HIM SIR TOYO
SIGIH
WHATEVER!

THE NEXT DAY
THEY LOOK NOTHING ALIKE! I DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD-LOOKING YOU THINK HE IS, BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY OF MR. IDA'S ELEGANCE!
LOTUS
OF COURSE NOT!!
HE'S NOT MY TYPE AT ALL!!
YOU'RE BOTH MALE!
HMPH!

BECAUSE HE'S GOD-LIKE. HE CAN REALLY DO EVERY-THING.
A GOD -
JUST WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?!

TAKE MY ADVICE - DON'T CROSS HIM!
NOW, NOW!!
THAT JERK... HOW DARE HE! TELLING ME TO STUDY COOKING...?!
OHH THAT WAS SCARY

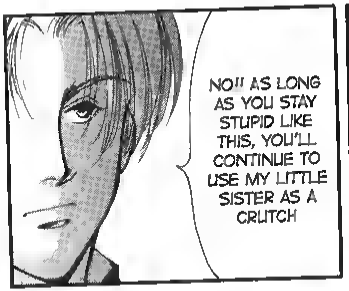
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT HE'S IN THE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB!
YUP, YUP - WITH A GRADE RANK PERCENTILE OF 81, COMBINED WITH THOSE LOOKS AND TWISTED PERSONALITY... HE'S INVINCIBLE

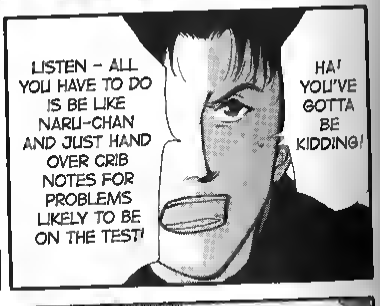
I'VE HEARD THAT HE'LL JUST SUDDENLY SKIP SCHOOL TO GO MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING SOMETIMES.
HE'S THE ONLY MEMBER.
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB? DO WE EVEN HAVE ONE OF THOSE?

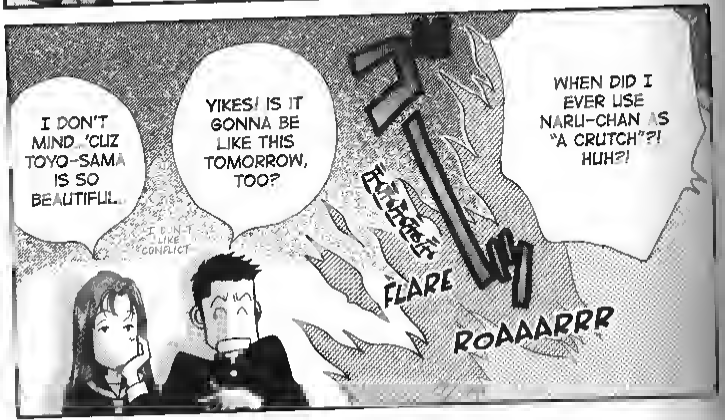
ISN'T THAT CORRECT?
IT'S COMPLETELY WRONG!! WHY CAN'T YOU EVEN TRANSLATE SUCH A SIMPLE PHRASE?!
IN THIS SENTENCE, THE VERB "STOP" HAS NO DIRECT OBJECT - THEREFORE IT'S AN INTRANSITIVE VERB!!
SO HOW DID YOU GET A TRANSITIVE VERB LIKE "PREVENT" HERE?!
WHAT ARE "INTRANSITIVE" AND "TRANSITIVE" VERBS...?
BONK
S-

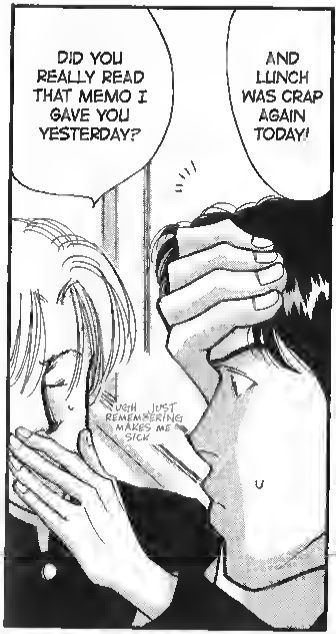
IS KOBAYASHI HERE?!
SO THE GIANT HAS ARRIVED
WHO ARE YOU CALLING "GIANT"?!
AND WHAT'S UP WITH THESE ANSWERS ON THE HOMEWORK YOU LEFT IN MY LOCKER ALONG WITH MY LUNCH TODAY?!
ARROGIANT
HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE TRANSLATION FOR THE ENGLISH PHRASE, "STOP AT THE RED LIGHT," TO BE, "PREVENT COMMUNISM"?!
RED LIGHT = RED = "COMMUNISM"
GRRR!

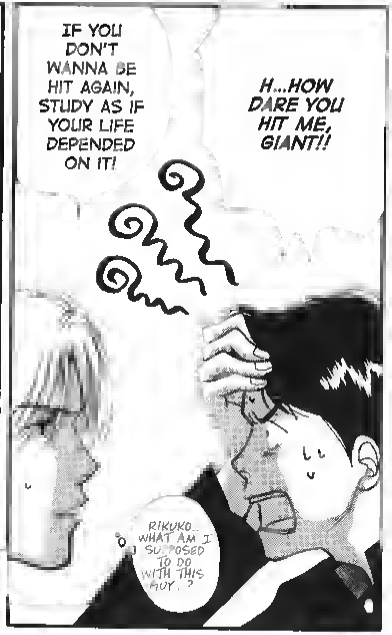
ROARRRRRRR
SHUT UP!! THE FACT THAT I HAVE SO MANY THINGS I CAN'T EAT IS PRECISELY WHY I BRING MY LUNCH EVERY DAY! NEVER PUT GREEN PEPPERS IN MY LUNCH AGAIN!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?! I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE WHO ARE THIS PICKY ABOUT THEIR FOOD!!

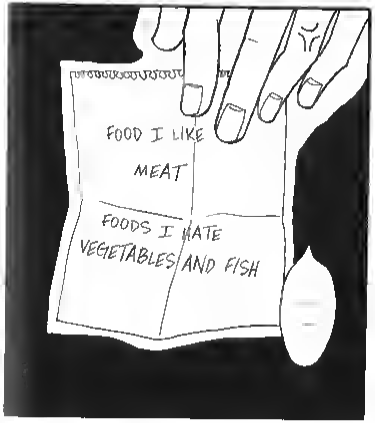

NO!! AS LONG AS YOU STAY STUPID LIKE THIS, YOU'LL CONTINUE TO USE MY LITTLE SISTER AS A CRUTCH


LISTEN - ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BE LIKE NARU-CHAN AND JUST HAND OVER CRIB NOTES FOR PROBLEMS LIKELY TO BE ON THE TEST!
HA! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!


I DON'T MIND..'CUZ TOYO-SAMA IS SO BEAUTIFUL..
I DON'T LIKE CONFLICT
YIKES! IS IT GONNA BE LIKE THIS TOMORROW, TOO?
WHEN DID I EVER USE NARU-CHAN AS "A CRUTCH"?! HUH?!
FLARE
ROAAARRR


DID YOU REALLY READ THAT MEMO I GAVE YOU YESTERDAY?
AND LUNCH WAS CRAP AGAIN TODAY!
UGH! JUST REMEMBERING MAKES ME SICK

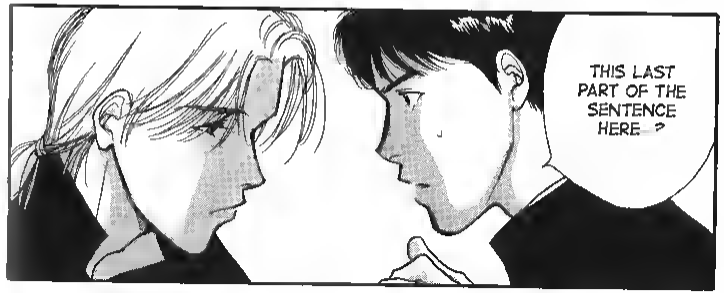

IF YOU DON'T WANNA BE HIT AGAIN, STUDY AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!
H...HOW DARE YOU HIT ME, GIANT!!
RIKUKO... WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS GUY...?


FOOD I LIKE
MEAT
FOODS I HATE
VEGETABLES AND FISH

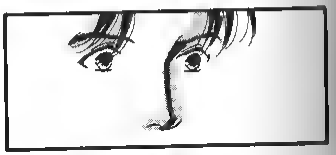
OH YEAH -
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU ABOUT THAT MEMO...

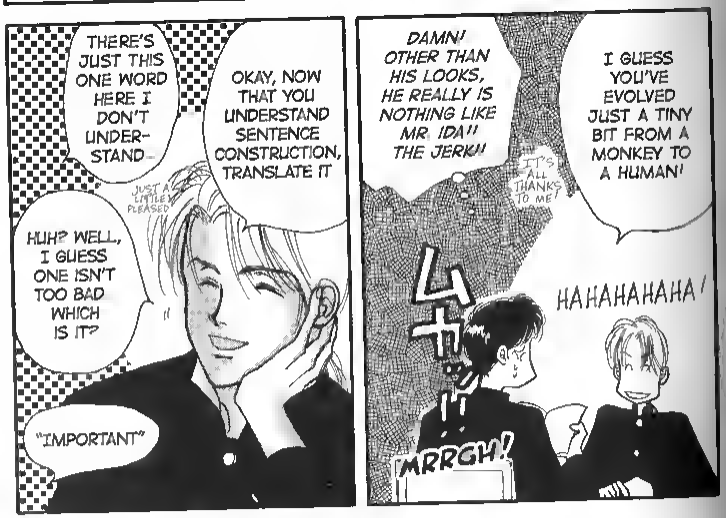
YET, THREE DAYS LATER -

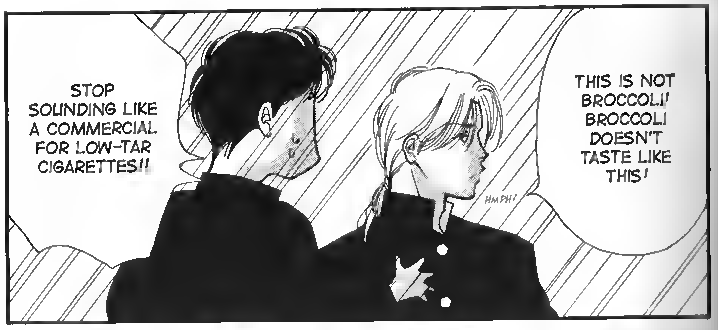
WOW - I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... I CAN ACTUALLY SEE THE SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION
EVERYTHING BESIDES "WHO" IS A PARENTHETICAL EXPRESSION HERE, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT! NOW TELL ME WHAT THIS "IT" SIGNIFIES

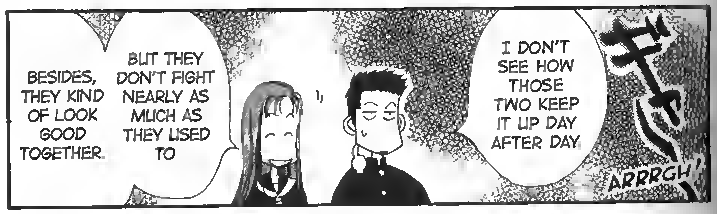


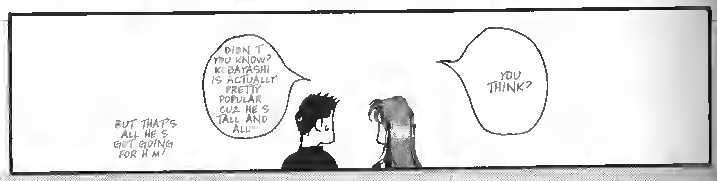
HE SMILED...

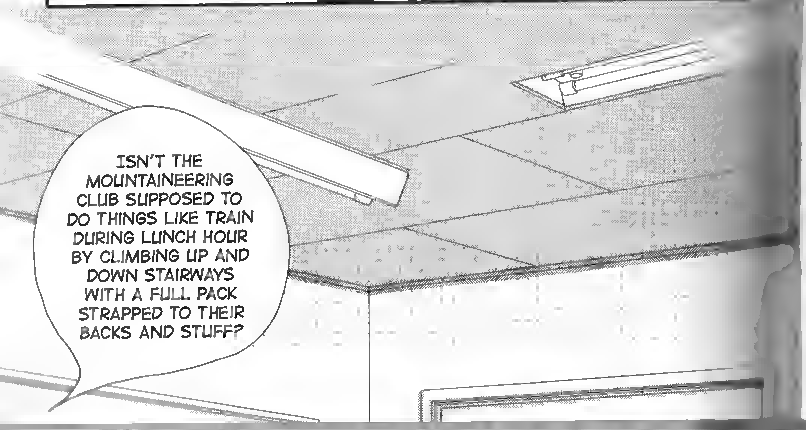


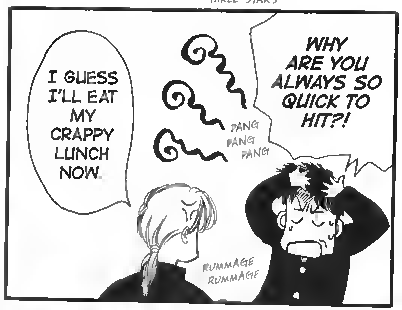

THERE'S JUST THIS ONE WORD HERE I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
OKAY, NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION, TRANSLATE IT
JUST A LITTLE, PLEASE!
HUH? WELL, I GUESS ONE ISN'T TOO BAD WHICH IS IT?
"IMPORTANT"
DAMN! OTHER THAN HIS LOOKS, HE REALLY IS NOTHING LIKE MR. IDA!! THE JERK!!
I GUESS YOU'VE EVOLVED JUST A TINY BIT FROM A MONKEY TO A HUMAN!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO ME!
HAHAHAHAHA!
MRRGH!

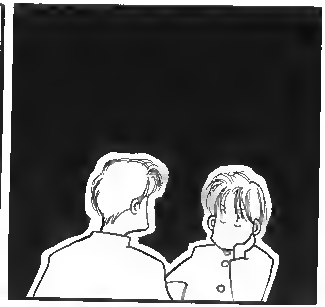

STOP SOUNDING LIKE A COMMERCIAL FOR LOW-TAR CIGARETTES!!
HMPH!
THIS IS NOT BROCCOLI! BROCCOLI DOESN'T TASTE LIKE THIS!

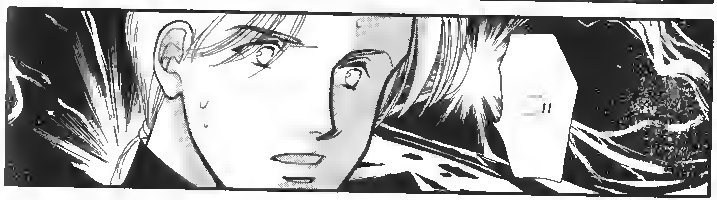

BESIDES, THEY KIND OF LOOK GOOD TOGETHER.
BUT THEY DON'T FIGHT NEARLY AS MUCH AS THEY USED TO
I DON'T SEE HOW THOSE TWO KEEP IT UP DAY AFTER DAY.
ARRRGH!


DIDN'T YOU KNOW? KOBAYASHI IS ACTUALLY PRETTY POPULAR CUZ HE'S TALL AND ALL...
BUT THAT'S ALL HE'S GOT GOING FOR HIM!
YOU THINK?

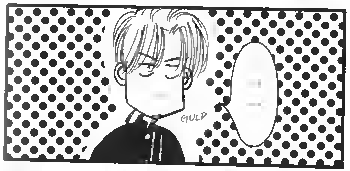

ISN'T THE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB SUPPOSED TO DO THINGS LIKE TRAIN DURING LUNCH HOUR BY CLIMBING UP AND DOWN STAIRWAYS WITH A FULL PACK STRAPPED TO THEIR BACKS AND STUFF?

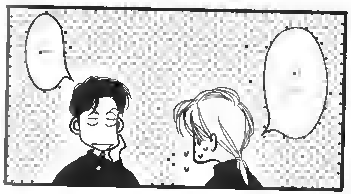

I GUESS I'LL EAT MY CRAPPY LUNCH NOW.
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO QUICK TO HIT?!
PANG! PANG! PANG!
RUMMAGE RUMMAGE



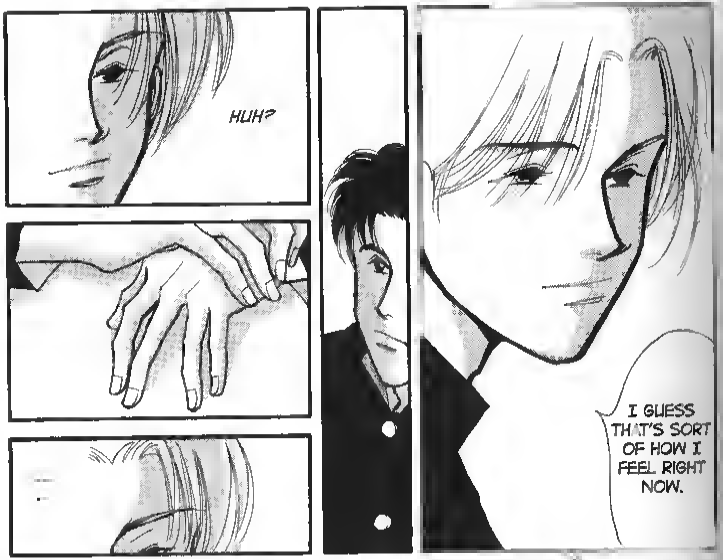

!!

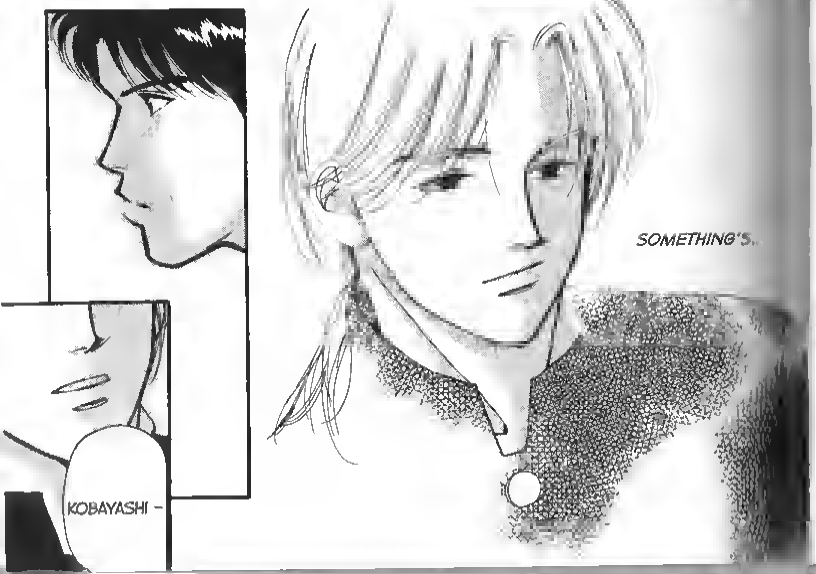
OMF
FINE, I'LL MAKE YOU EAT THOSE WORDS! LET'S JUST SEE HOW BAD IT TAS-...


GULP

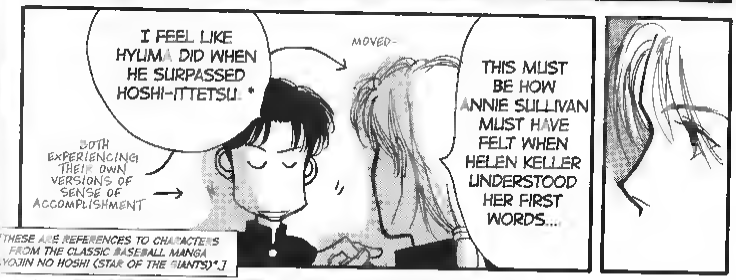


YOU DID IT AGAIN!! BROCCOLI?! HOW DARE YOU!!
MINE IS GOOD! TRY TASTING IT BEFORE YOU COMPLAIN!!
BROCCOLI

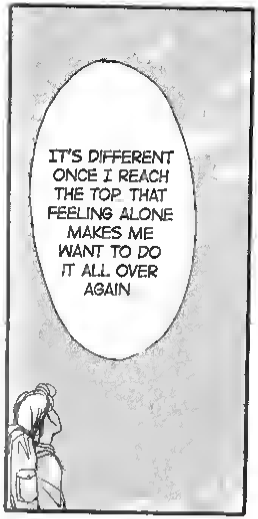


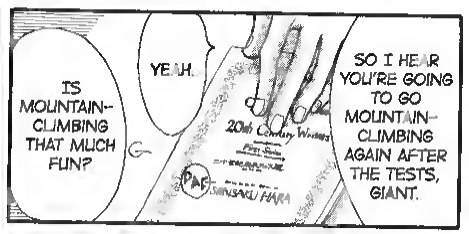


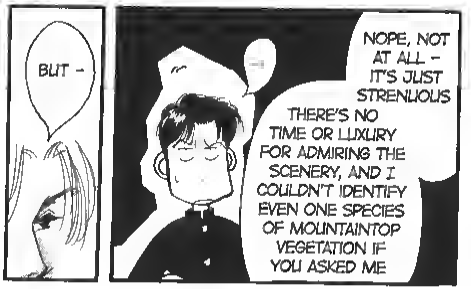
THEN THE NEXT PAGE.
DONE.
I'VE LONG SINCE FINISHED THEM ALL.
I WOULD NEVER TRAIN IN SUCH AN INARTISTIC MANNER. HURRY UP AND SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

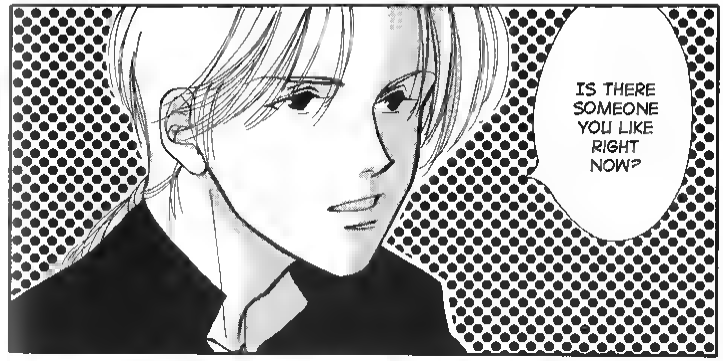

I FEEL LIKE HYUMA DID WHEN HE SURPASSED HOSHI-ITTETSU. *
MOVED-
BOTH EXPERIENCING THEIR OWN VERSIONS OF SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT
THIS MUST BE HOW ANNIE SULLIVAN MUST HAVE FELT WHEN HELEN KELLER UNDERSTOOD HER FIRST WORDS...

[THESE ARE REFERENCES TO CHARACTERS FROM THE CLASSIC BASEBALL MANGA KYOJIN NO HOSHI (STAR OF THE GIANTS)*.]

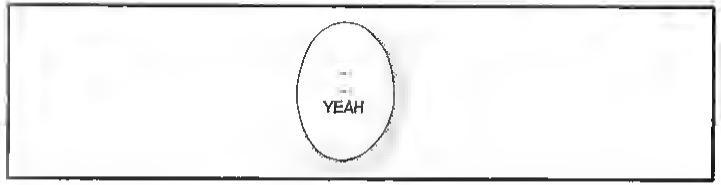



IS MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING THAT MUCH FUN?
YEAH.
20th Century Women
PAK JUNGKU HARA
SO I HEAR YOU'RE GOING TO GO MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING AGAIN AFTER THE TESTS, GIANT.

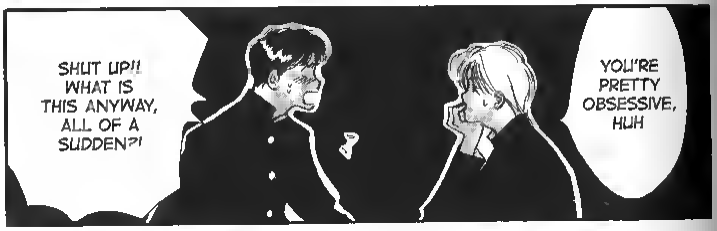

BUT -
NOPE, NOT AT ALL - IT'S JUST STRENUOUS
THERE'S NO TIME OR LUXURY FOR ADMIRING THE SCENERY, AND I COULDN'T IDENTIFY EVEN ONE SPECIES OF MOUNTAINTOP VEGETATION IF YOU ASKED ME


IS THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE RIGHT NOW?

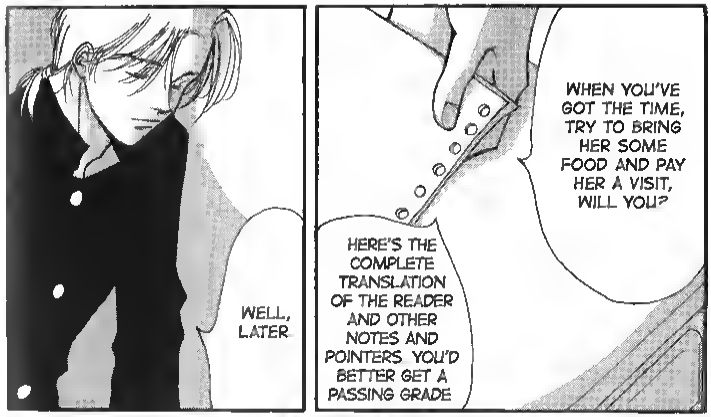
SOMEONE YOU LIKE –
RIGHT NOW.
ギクッ!!
JOLT!
HUH?!
WH – WHY DO YOU ASK ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

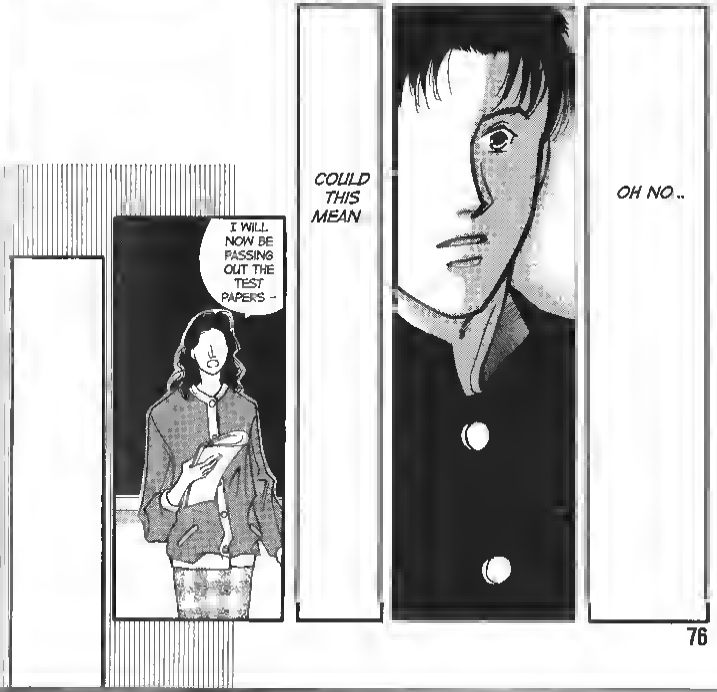

YEAH

I WAS REJECTED SIX MONTHS AGO, THOUGH...
BUT I STILL CAN'T GET OVER MY FEELINGS...

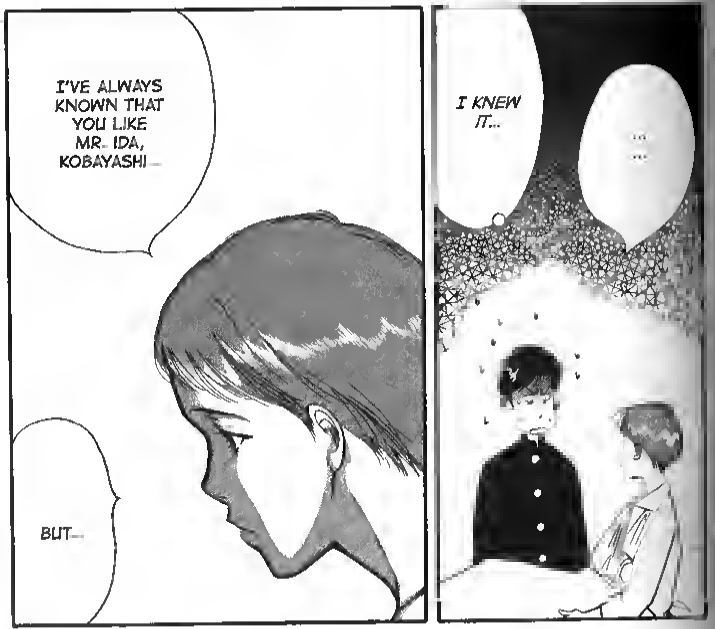

YOU'RE PRETTY OBSESSIVE, HUH
SHUT UP!! WHAT IS THIS ANYWAY, ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

RIKUKO KEEPS COMPLAINING HOW AWFUL THE HOSPITAL FOOD IS.
?


WELL, LATER
WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE TIME, TRY TO BRING HER SOME FOOD AND PAY HER A VISIT, WILL YOU?
HERE'S THE COMPLETE TRANSLATION OF THE READER AND OTHER NOTES AND POINTERS YOU'D BETTER GET A PASSING GRADE

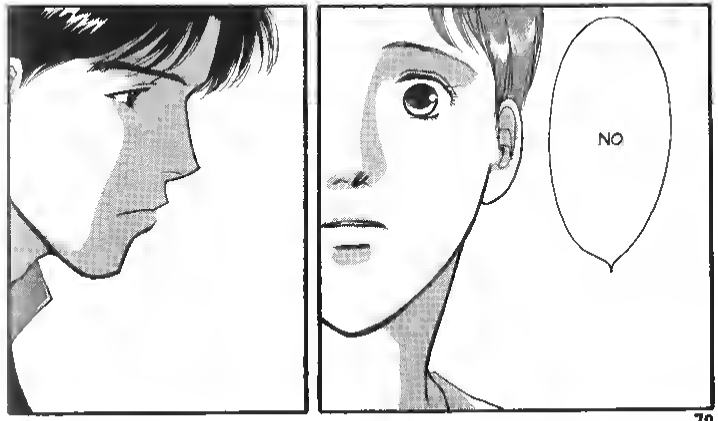

I WILL NOW BE PASSING OUT THE TEST PAPERS →
COULD THIS MEAN
OH NO..

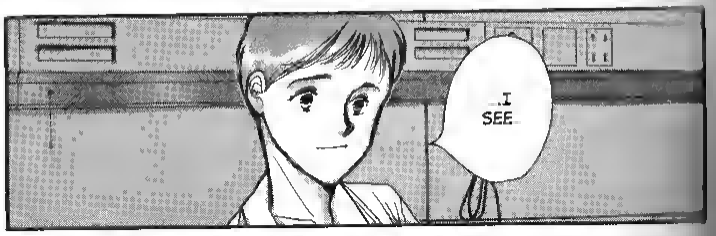
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU

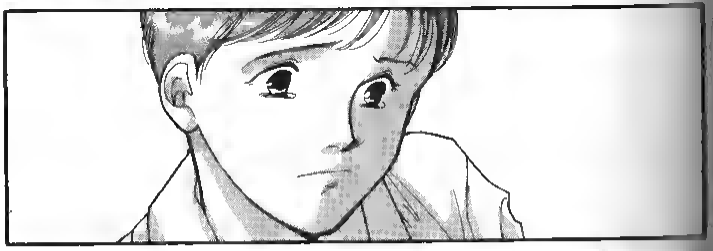

I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT YOU LIKE MR. IDA, KOBAYASHI—
BUT—

I KNEW IT...
...
...

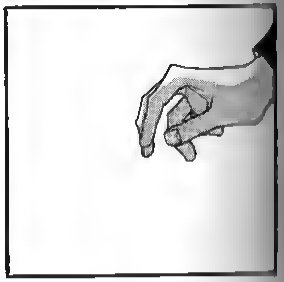
NO?


NO

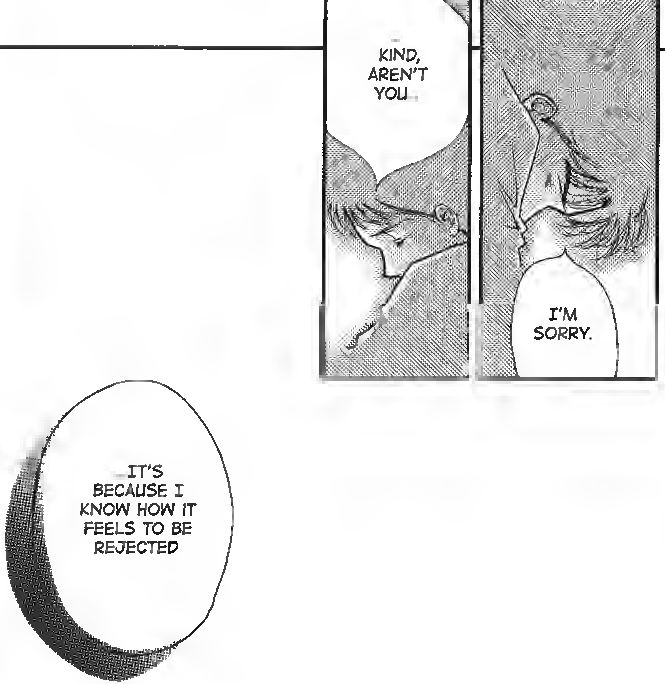

I SEE



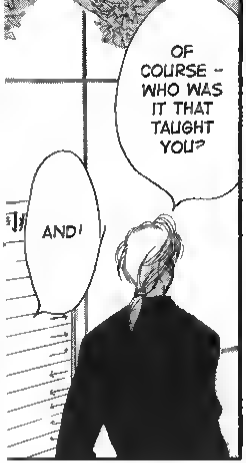
I'M SORRY

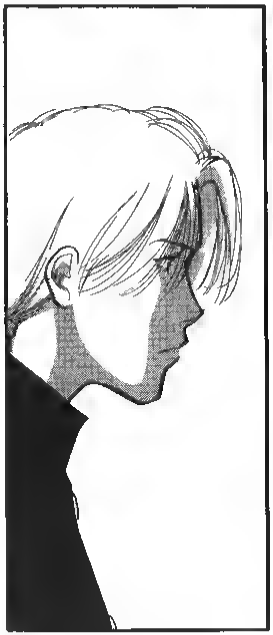


AREN'T YOU GONNA HIT ME OR SOMETHING?
THANK
YOU ANSWERED HER HONESTLY IN THERE.
WHAT FOR?

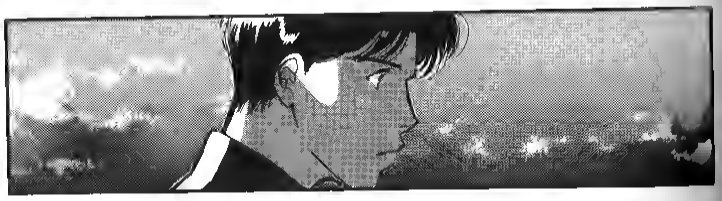

KIND, AREN'T YOU...
I'M SORRY.
IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE REJECTED
KYAK

COME TO THINK OF IT. THIS GUY COMPLAINED ABOUT MY LUNCH INCESSANTLY.. BUT HE NEVER LEFT A SINGLE BITE UNEATEN.





AFTER THIS -
YOU'RE GOING TO THE MOUNTAINS, RIGHT? I'LL BRING YOU A LUNCH THAT DAY - FILLED WITH ONLY YOUR FAVORITES!
YOU CAN EAT IT WHEN YOU GET TO THE TOP!



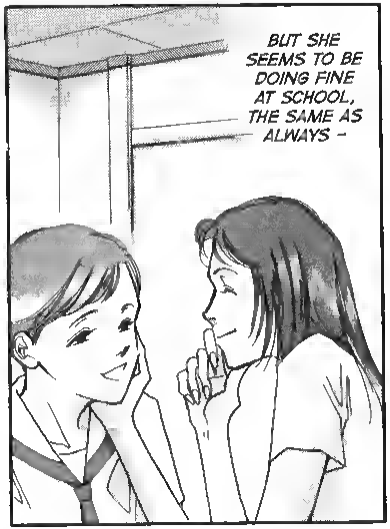
THIS COULD BE BAD...

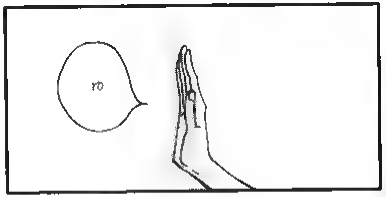
THE FACE HE MADE AS HE SMILED WAS NOTHING AT ALL LIKE MR. IDA'S, BUT –

...UH– OH.

END

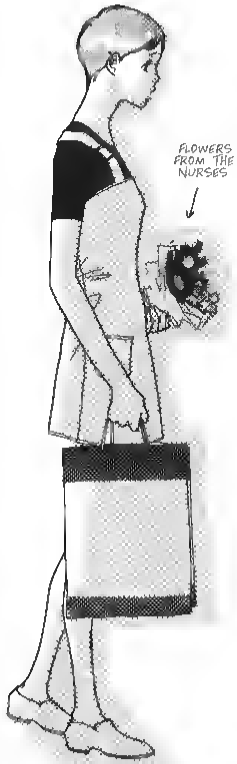
NATURAL BORN
WINNER



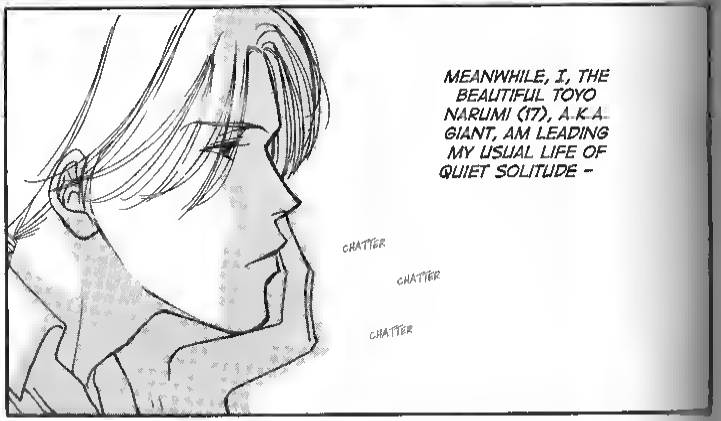


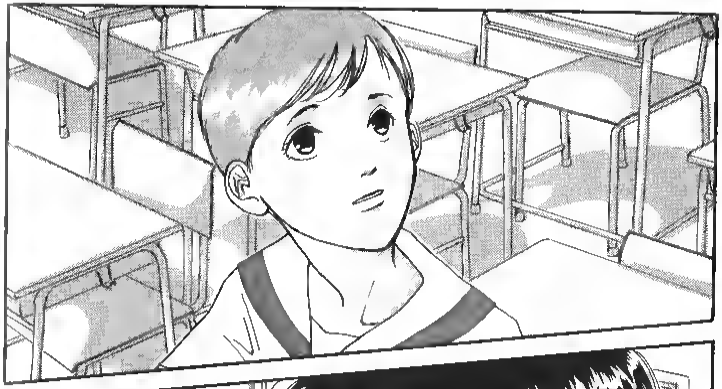
NOT ENTIRELY DUE JUST TO HER LIGHT SUMMER UNIFORM – HER FRAME WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN SMALL AND FRAGILE, SEEMED EVEN SMALLER TO ME…

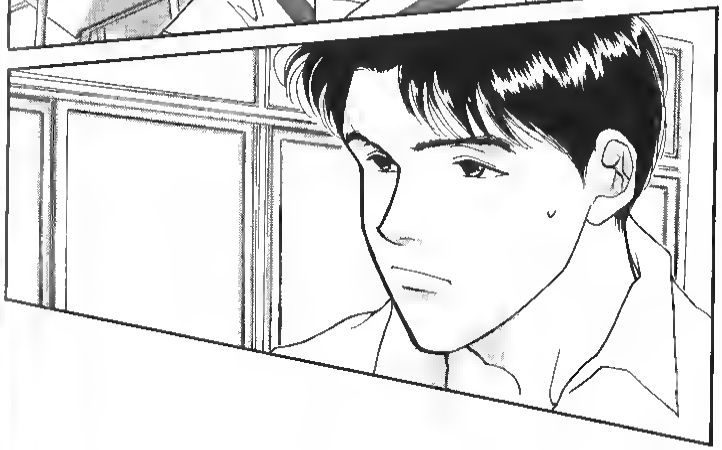
MY LITTLE SISTER RIKUKO (16) WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL.



I HEAR SHE ACTS AS IF NOTHING HAD EVER HAPPENED.
Y...
YOU REALLY ARE THE NICEST PERSON.
MOVED
KOBAYASHI HE MUST HAVE CONFESSED HIS LOVE TO NARUSAWA AND SHE DUMPED HIM I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
UH-UH NO IT'S OKAY



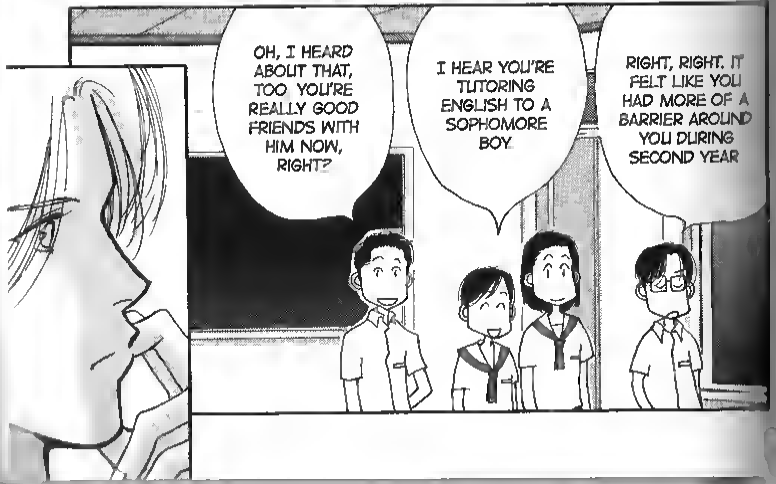


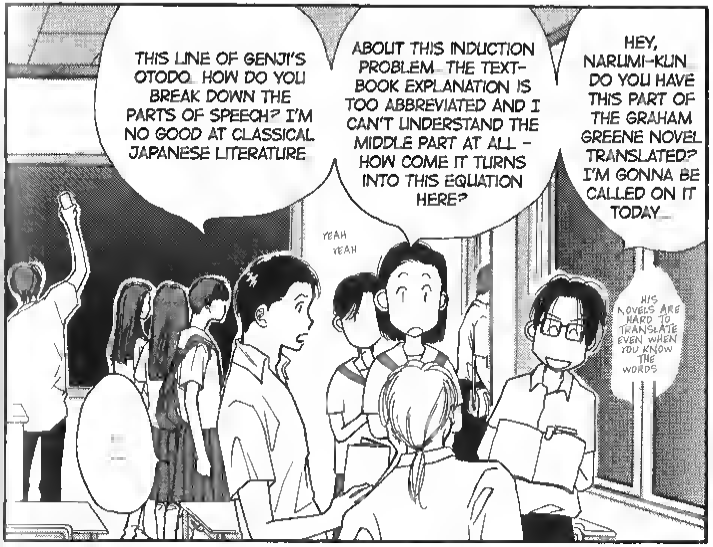


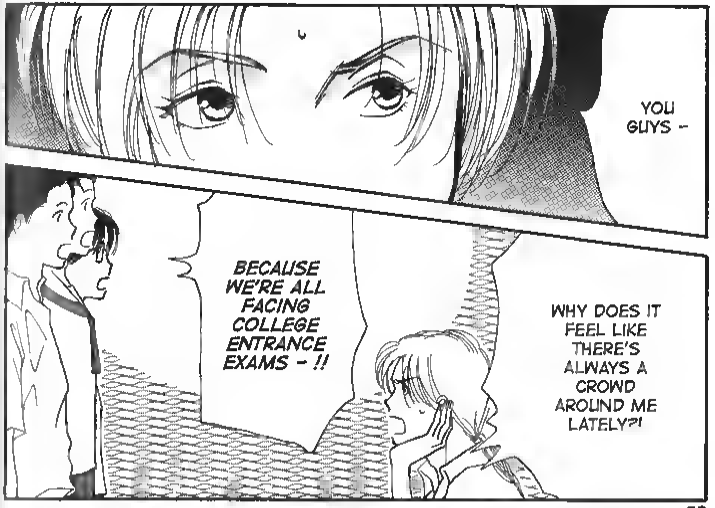
EVEN WITH THE GUY WHO **DUMPED** HER.

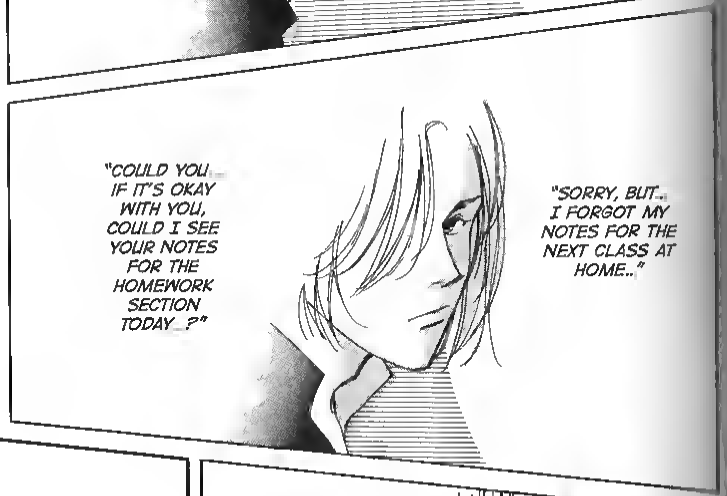
THERE'S A RUMOR GOING AROUND THAT YOU'VE BECOME FRIENDLIER LATELY, NARUMI-KUN.
BESIDES, THAT'S NOT ALL -

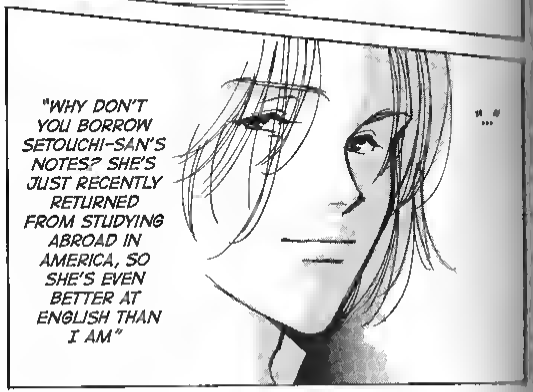
OUR BACKS ARE UP AGAINST THE WALL NOW, TOO
AT THIS POINT, WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY ANYMORE OF BEING CONSIDERATE TOWARD YOU - OF LEAVING YOU ALONE BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT A PEOPLE-PERSON YOU'VE GOT A WHOPPING GRADE RANK PERCENTILE OF 81 - DON'T BE SO STINGY!
YOU GUYS...
AND IT'S MORE CONVENIENT TO ASK YOU INSTEAD OF HAVING TO TRACK DOWN A DIFFERENT TEACHER EVERY TIME FOR EACH SUBJECT


OH, I HEARD ABOUT THAT, TOO. YOU'RE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS WITH HIM NOW, RIGHT?
I HEAR YOU'RE TUTORING ENGLISH TO A SOPHOMORE BOY.
RIGHT, RIGHT. IT FELT LIKE YOU HAD MORE OF A BARRIER AROUND YOU DURING SECOND YEAR

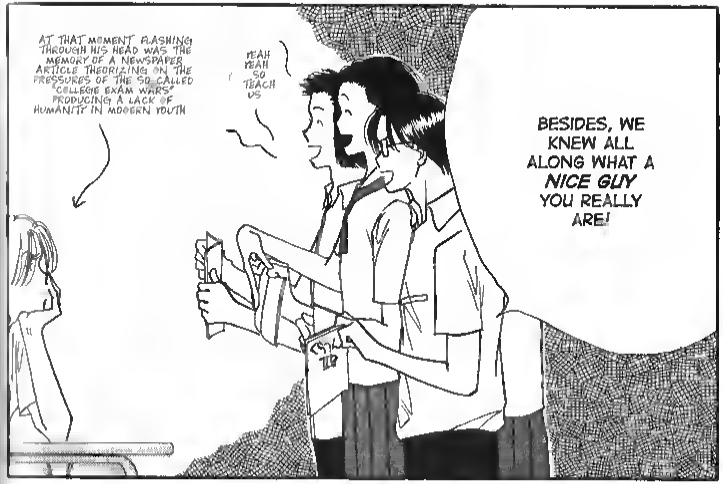

THIS LINE OF GENJI'S OTODO... HOW DO YOU BREAK DOWN THE PARTS OF SPEECH? I'M NO GOOD AT CLASSICAL JAPANESE LITERATURE
ABOUT THIS INDUCTION PROBLEM... THE TEXT-BOOK EXPLANATION IS TOO ABBREVIATED AND I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE PART AT ALL - HOW COME IT TURNS INTO THIS EQUATION HERE?
HEY, NARUMI-KUN DO YOU HAVE THIS PART OF THE GRAHAM GREENE NOVEL TRANSLATED? I'M GONNA BE CALLED ON IT TODAY...
YEAH YEAH
HIS NOVELS ARE HARD TO TRANSLATE EVEN WHEN YOU KNOW THE WORDS

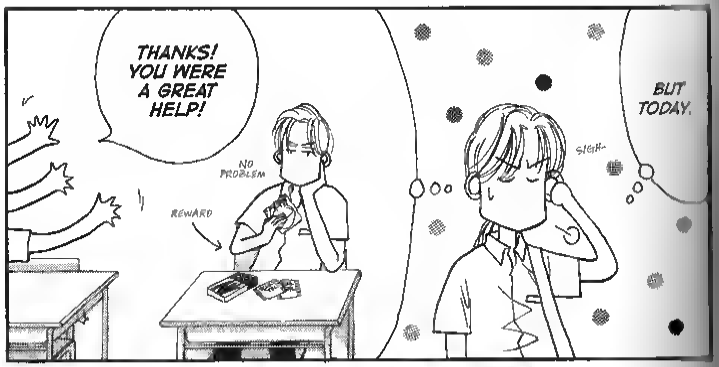

YOU GUYS -
BECAUSE WE'RE ALL FACING COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS - !!
WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE THERE'S ALWAYS A CROWD AROUND ME LATELY?!

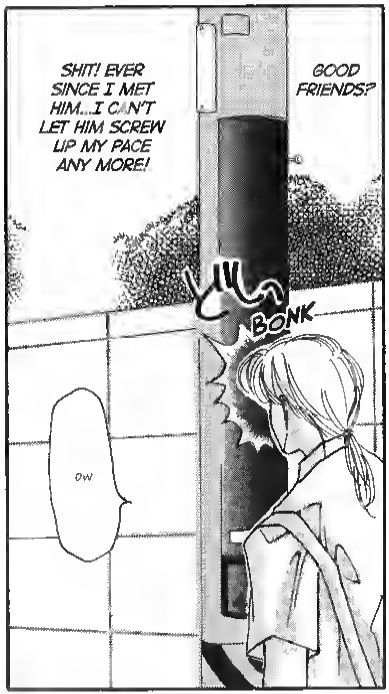

"COULD YOU... IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, COULD I SEE YOUR NOTES FOR THE HOMEWORK SECTION TODAY...?"
"SORRY, BUT... I FORGOT MY NOTES FOR THE NEXT CLASS AT HOME.."


"WHY DON'T YOU BORROW SETOUCHI-SAN'S NOTES? SHE'S JUST RECENTLY RETURNED FROM STUDYING ABROAD IN AMERICA, SO SHE'S EVEN BETTER AT ENGLISH THAN I AM"
"..."

I SAID IT, EVEN KNOWING THAT HE WASN'T LYING ABOUT LEAVING HIS NOTES AT HOME, THAT HE WAS THE STUDIOUS TYPE WHO USUALLY TOOK HIS OWN NOTES.. AND ALSO THAT HE HAD A CRUSH ON SETOUCHI...


AT THAT MOMENT FLASHING THROUGH HIS HEAD WAS THE MEMORY OF A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE THEORIZING ON THE PRESSURES OF THE SO-CALLED "COLLEGE EXAM WARS" PRODUCING A LACK OF HUMANITY IN MODERN YOUTH
YEAH YEAH SO TEACH US
BESIDES, WE KNEW ALL ALONG WHAT A NICE GUY YOU REALLY ARE!

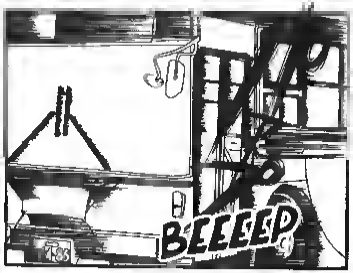

THANKS! YOU WERE A GREAT HELP!
NO PROBLEM
REWARD
SIGH~
BUT TODAY.

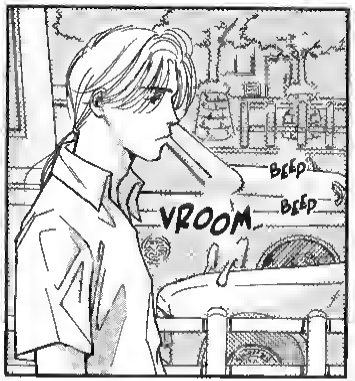

SHIT! EVER SINCE I MET HIM...I CAN'T LET HIM SCREW UP MY PACE ANY MORE!
GOOD FRIENDS?
BONK
OW

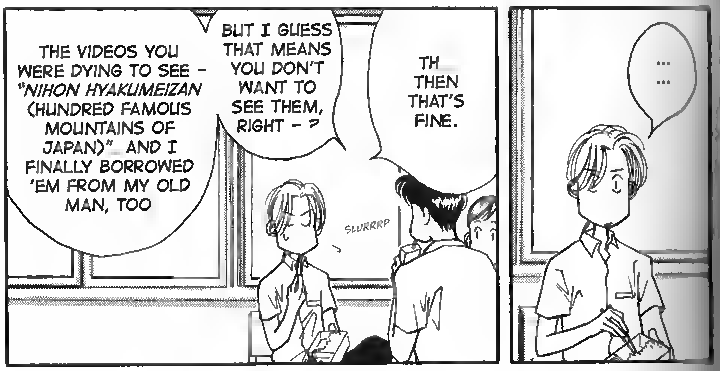
"YOU'RE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS WITH HIM NOW, RIGHT?"

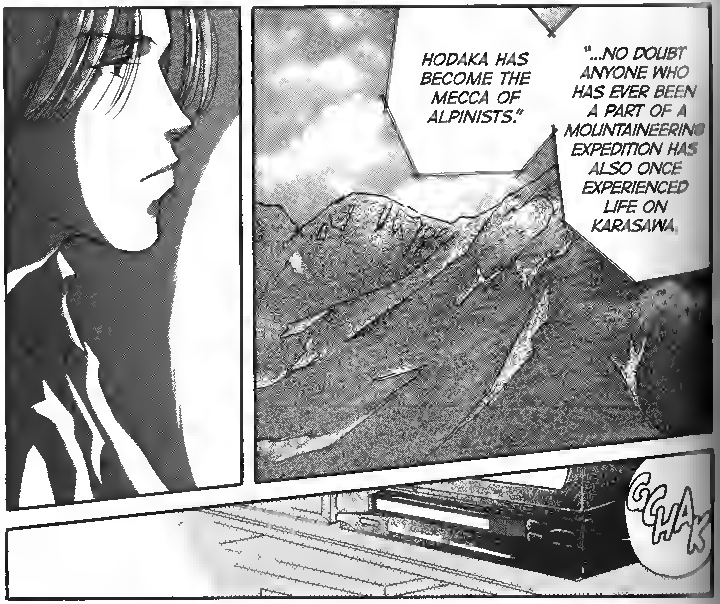
EVEN IF I HAD KNOWN THEN THAT HE'D JUST BEEN REJECTED BY SETOUCHI THE DAY BEFORE...THE PERSON I WAS WOULD STILL HAVE SAID THE SAME THING TO HIM.

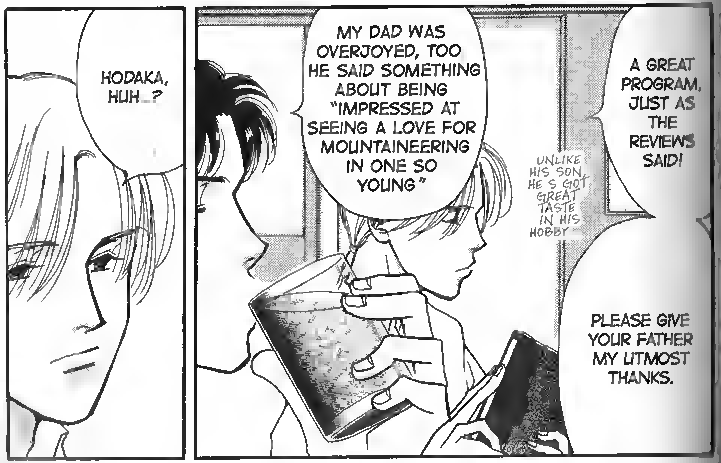
"...YOU'RE RIGHT."
"YEAH...I GUESS I'LL DO THAT"
"SORRY."

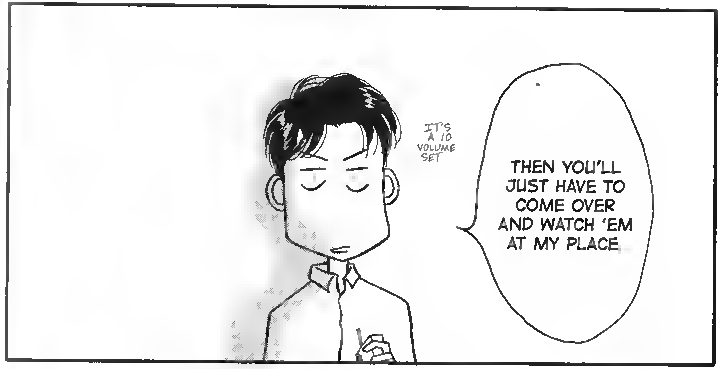

BEEEEP

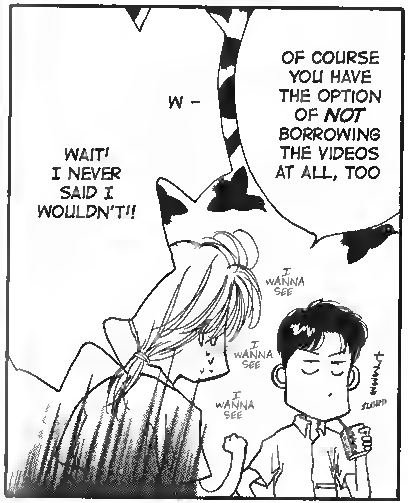

BEEP
VROOM
BEEP

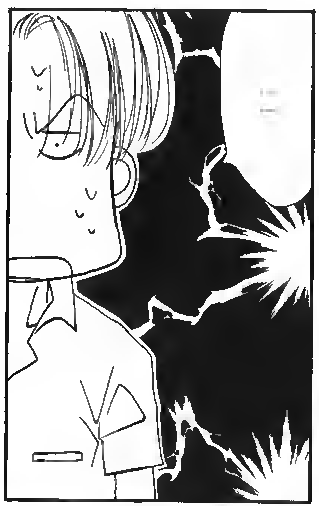

I I I


HODAKA HAS BECOME THE MECCA OF ALPINISTS."
"...NO DOUBT ANYONE WHO HAS EVER BEEN A PART OF A MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION HAS ALSO ONCE EXPERIENCED LIFE ON KARASAWA.
GGWAK


HODAKA, HUH...?
MY DAD WAS OVERJOYED, TOO HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT BEING "IMPRESSED AT SEEING A LOVE FOR MOUNTAINEERING IN ONE SO YOUNG"
UNLIKE HIS SON HE'S GOT GREAT TASTE IN HIS HOBBY
A GREAT PROGRAM, JUST AS THE REVIEWS SAID!
PLEASE GIVE YOUR FATHER MY UTMOST THANKS.


IT'S A 10 VOLUME SET
THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO COME OVER AND WATCH 'EM AT MY PLACE.


W -
OF COURSE YOU HAVE THE OPTION OF NOT BORROWING THE VIDEOS AT ALL, TOO
WAIT! I NEVER SAID I WOULDN'T!!
I WANNA SEE
I WANNA SEE
I WANNA SEE
SLURP

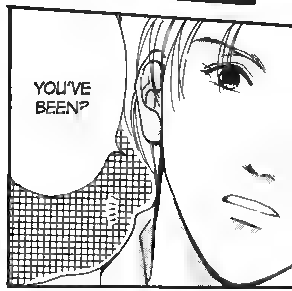


OF MT. HODAKA, KYUYA FUKADA SPEAKS THUSLY -

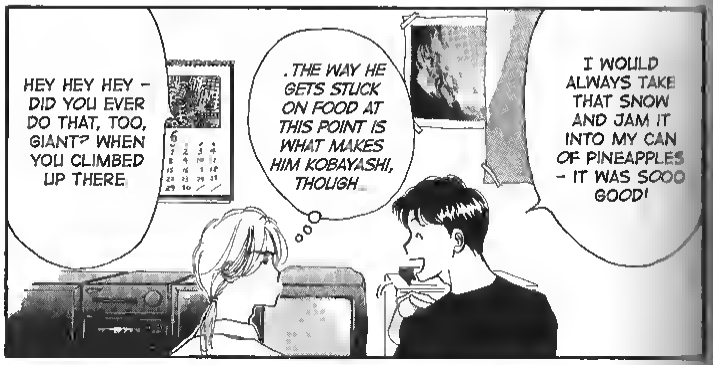
HE RESEMBLES HIM --
THE REASON WHY I ALLOWED HIM INTO MY TERRITORY.
..NOW I GET IT.
HE WAS A CLASSMATE OF MINE IN JUNIOR HIGH.
"KAMIKOUCHI?"
"MY FORMER SCHOOL WAS REAL CLOSE TO IT. I'VE BEEN THERE MANY TIMES"

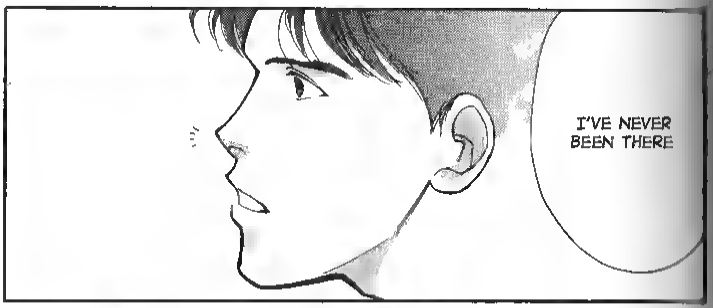
[* "BASUKURIN" IS A BRAND NAME OF BATH SALTS IN JAPAN. IT TURNS THE BATH WATER A BRIGHT BLUE OR GREEN COLOR.]

GIANT...IS THAT HOW YOU CHOOSE TO DESCRIBE THOSE CRYSTAL BLUE WATERS OF THE AZUSA RIVER AND LAKE TAISHO?
THAT KAMIKOUCHI AREA... IT LOOKS LIKE A NICE PLACE.
THE RIVERS AND LAKES LOOK LIKE THEY'RE FILLED WITH BASUKURIN* BECAUSE OF THE PHOSPHATE CONTENT IN THE WATER...



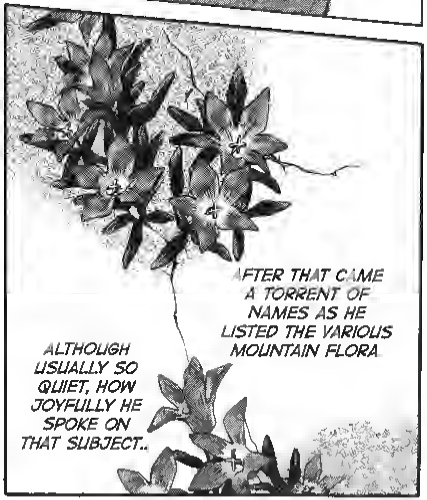
I'VE BEEN TO KAMI-KOUCHI TWICE
OF COURSE! CAN'T YOU TELL BY MY DAD HAVING THESE VIDEOS? WHEN I WAS LITTLE, ALL OUR SUMMER OUTINGS INVOLVED MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

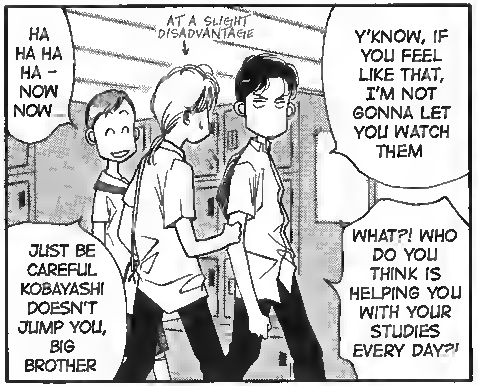

HEY HEY HEY - DID YOU EVER DO THAT, TOO, GIANT? WHEN YOU CLIMBED UP THERE
...THE WAY HE GETS STUCK ON FOOD AT THIS POINT IS WHAT MAKES HIM KOBAYASHI, THOUGH...
I WOULD ALWAYS TAKE THAT SNOW AND JAM IT INTO MY CAN OF PINEAPPLES - IT WAS SOOO GOOD!



HE WAS A FRIEND OF MINE.

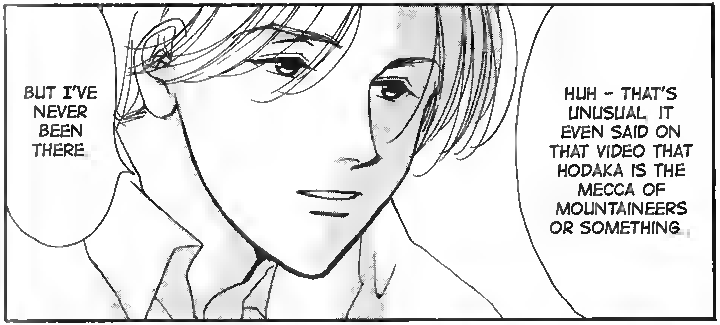
"IF YOU CLIMB UP TO KARASAWA, THERE ARE SNOW-COVERED VALLEYS... EVEN DURING THE SUMMER. AND NEXT TO THE SNOW IS A VAST FIELD OF FLOWERS."
"THE SCENERY ALMOST MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE NOT IN JAPAN ANYMORE. IN FRONT IS MT. HODAKA; AT YOUR FEET, THE AZUSA RIVER"


AFTER THAT CAME A TORRENT OF NAMES AS HE LISTED THE VARIOUS MOUNTAIN FLORA.
ALTHOUGH USUALLY SO QUIET, HOW JOYFULLY HE SPOKE ON THAT SUBJECT...

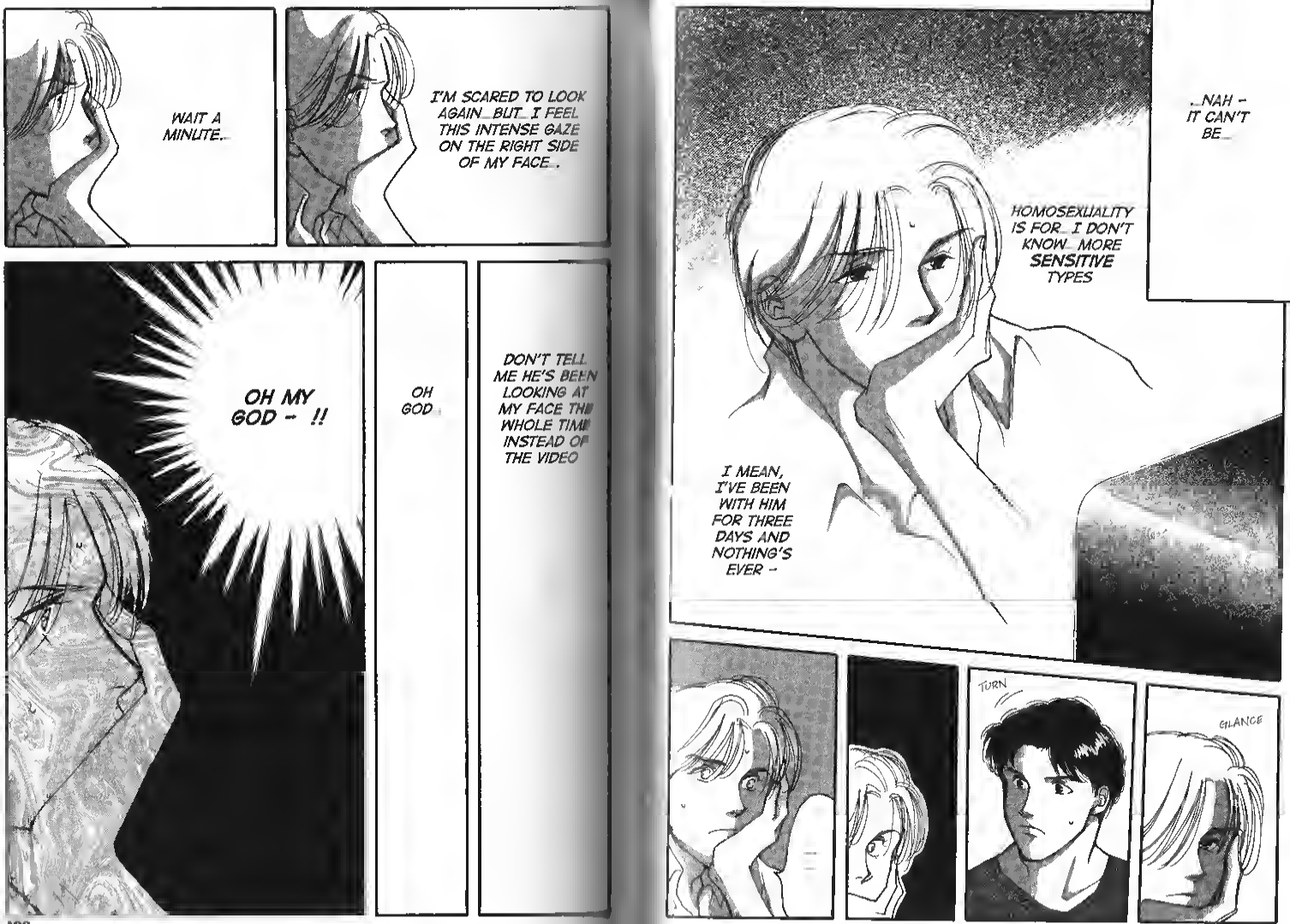

HA HA HA HA – NOW NOW–
AT A SLIGHT DISADVANTAGE
Y'KNOW, IF YOU FEEL LIKE THAT, I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU WATCH THEM
JUST BE CAREFUL KOBAYASHI DOESN'T JUMP YOU, BIG BROTHER
WHAT?! WHO DO YOU THINK IS HELPING YOU WITH YOUR STUDIES EVERY DAY?!

H..HUH? YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE IT SO SERIOUSLY..
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, NARU-CHAN?! WHY WOULD I *EVER* JUMP AN UGLY JERK LIKE HIM?!
WH–
...I DON'T THINK "UGLY" IS THE PROBLEM, IS IT..?
WHAT'S HE BLUSHING FOR?

HUH? YOU'RE GOING OVER TO KOBAYASHI'S HOUSE AGAIN TODAY, BROTHER?
I CAN'T HELP IT! THE VIDEOS CONTAIN 100 10-MINUTE PROGRAMS.
I JUST WANT TO HURRY UP AND WATCH THEM ALL SO I CAN GET IT OVER WITH!


BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE
HUH – THAT'S UNUSUAL. IT EVEN SAID ON THAT VIDEO THAT HODAKA IS THE MECCA OF MOUNTAINEERS OR SOMETHING.

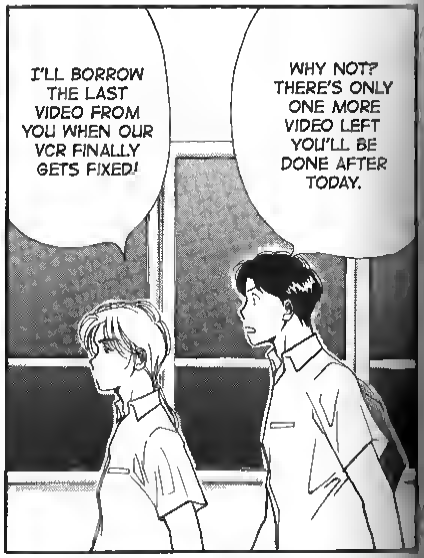
–UNTIL THE INSTANT HE TOLD ME HE WAS IN LOVE WITH ME
HE WAS MY FRIEND...


TURN
GLANCE
...NAH - IT CAN'T BE_
HOMOSEXUALITY IS FOR_ I DON'T KNOW_ MORE SENSITIVE TYPES
I MEAN, I'VE BEEN WITH HIM FOR THREE DAYS AND NOTHING'S EVER -
WAIT A MINUTE..
I'M SCARED TO LOOK AGAIN_BUT_I FEEL THIS INTENSE GAZE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF MY FACE..
OH MY GOD - !!
OH GOD..
DON'T TELL ME HE'S BEEN LOOKING AT MY FACE THE WHOLE TIME INSTEAD OF THE VIDEO

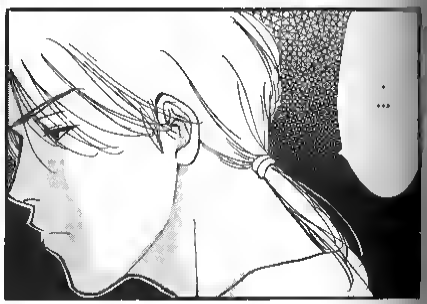
BROTHER... YOU LOOK REALLY... TIRED...
YEAH.
...YOU KNEW HE WAS GAY, DIDN'T YOU...
...RIKUKO.
D...DON'T TELL ME KOBAYASHI REALLY JUMPED Y-
HAGIWARA
OF COURSE NOT!!
SO KOBAYASHI REALLY RAPED Y- ?!
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?! HIS PARENTS BOTH WORK AND WE WERE ALONE UNTIL LATE, YOU KNOW!!

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT KOBAYASHI'S TYPE AT ALL.
WHY NOT?! YOU KNOW I -
DON'T SAY IT SO DISMISSIVELY!
I'M PRETTY SURE HE LIKES THE KINDER, GENTLER TYPE - LIKE MR IDA...
BLUNT
OH - IS THAT ALL?
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT - OF COURSE KOBAYASHI WOULD NEVER ATTACK YOU, BROTHER...
HE DIDN'T, BUT I FELT LIKE HE MIGHT HAVE WANTED TO! I FELT THIS INTENSE GAZE...!!
YEAH
ALTHOUGH HE'S A GOOD TEACHER FOR ONE SO YOUNG!
IDA?
YOU MEAN THE EFFEMINATE-LOOKING TEACHER OF WORLD HISTORY... THAT IDA?
COULD IT BE THAT IDA'S THE ONE THAT HE -
OH - BUT NOW THAT I LOOK CLOSELY, YOU MIGHT RESEMBLE EACH OTHER A BIT IN LOOKS...

HEY!
!


I'LL BORROW THE LAST VIDEO FROM YOU WHEN OUR VCR FINALLY GETS FIXED!
WHY NOT? THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE VIDEO LEFT YOU'LL BE DONE AFTER TODAY.

WHY?


...

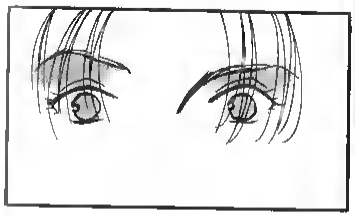
HUH?
YEAH, MR IDA'S THE ONE KOBAYASHI HAD A CRUSH ON.

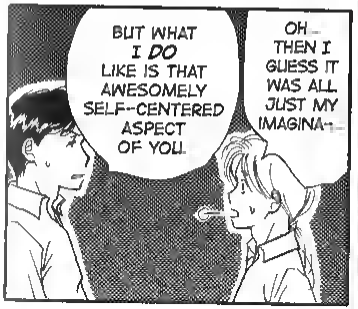
I WON'T BE COMING OVER TO YOUR HOUSE ANYMORE

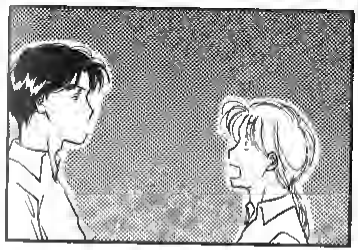
IDA AND I RESEMBLE EACH OTHER – IN FACT, I'M EVEN *MORE HANDSOME* THAN HE IS!!
H...HEY! DON'T YOU REFER TO MR. IDA SO CASUALLY LIKE THAT!!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULDN'T FALL IN LOVE WITH A *PERFECT* GUY LIKE ME!!
DON'T REFER TO TEACHER AS "THAT DUDE"!!
ON TOP OF THAT, I'M *WAY* SMARTER THAN THAT DUDE IS, AND RECENTLY MY PERSONALITY'S EVEN IMPROVED!!
GIAH! I SLIPPED UP!
GIANT, LISTEN TO ME!!

YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME, AREN'T YOU?!
THWAP!!
WHAT?!
RIKUKO TOLD ME – YOU LIKE IDA OF WORLD HISTORY, DON'T YOU?!

I LOVE YOU.



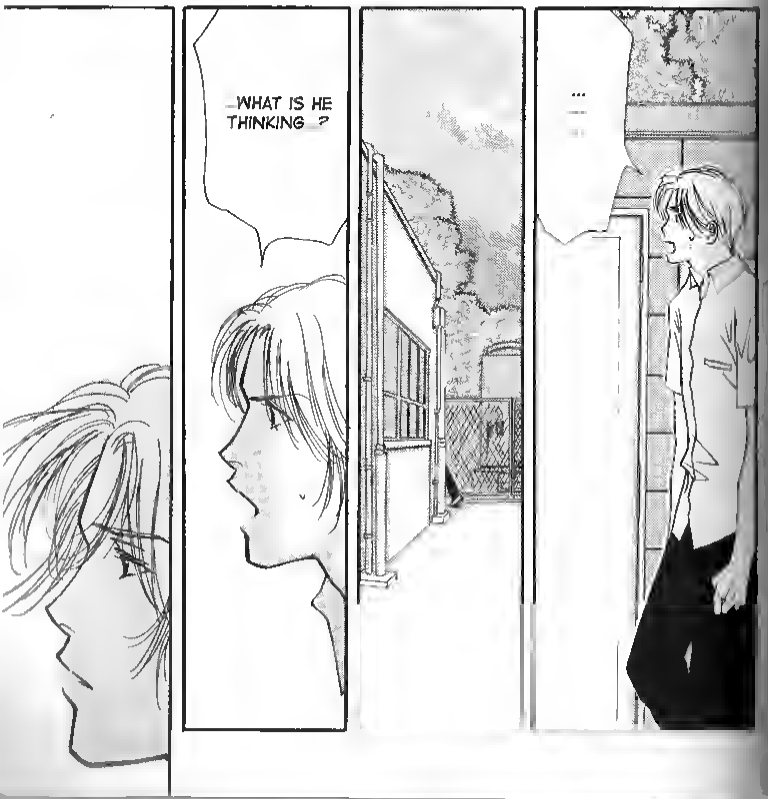

BUT WHAT I DO LIKE IS THAT AWESOMELY SELF-CENTERED ASPECT OF YOU.
OH— THEN I GUESS IT WAS ALL JUST MY IMAGINA—

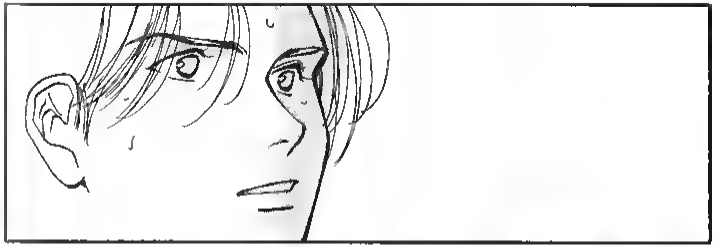


!?
!?

—YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
HOW COULD THERE EVER BE ANOTHER AS CUTE AND PURE-HEARTED AS MR. IDA?! I'VE GOT STANDARDS TOO, YOU KNOW!!

SEE YA!
I KNOW, I KNOW, YOU'VE GOT TOO MUCH PRIDE TO SAY OKAY RIGHT AWAY
KO-...!!
WHAT?!
W...WAIT A MINUTE!! I JUST *GAVE* YOU MY ANS-...


...WHAT IS HE THINKING...?
...



KOBAYASHI -
WELL THEN - YOU CAN JUST GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER AFTER THE SEMESTER FINALS.
SORRY... BUT I CAN ONLY THINK OF YOU AS MY SLOW-WITTED JUNIOR CLASSMATE.
...

IT WAS THE WINTER OF MY SENIOR YEAR IN JUNIOR HIGH
RUSTLE
"I LOVE YOU."
I PARTED WITH HIM IN THE MOST HORRIBLE WAY.
..DAMN.
DON'T MAKE ME REMEMBER..!
END

HERE -
THIS IS A GLOBE-FLOWER
SEEMS OUT OF CHARACTER, DOESN'T IT? A GUY LIKE ME TAKING PICTURES OF FLOWERS...
OH, I KNOW THIS FLOWER -
AND THIS ONE IS THE DICENTRA PEREGRINA AND HERE'S ONE OF A BELLFLOWER
THESE ARE GREAT! EVERY PHOTO LOOKS LIKE IT WAS TAKEN BY A PRO I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SUCH A GOOD PHOTOGRAPHER
I COULDN'T GET ANY GOOD SHOTS OF THE ENTIRE FIELD OF FLOWERS I TOOK THIS ONE FROM A POINT CALLED KARASAWA ON MT. HODAKA
IT MUST BE WHY I DREAM OF HIM SO OFTEN...
THERE WAS SOME-- THING I WANTED TO TELL HIM
BUT I SUPPOSE IT IS TRUE... ABOUT MY BEING DIFFERENT...
...NARUMI, YOU SURE CAN BE RUDE
BUT SO WHAT? YOU WERE ALWAYS SORT OF "DIFFERENT" TO BEGIN WITH ANYWAY
WELL, YEAH, TO BE HONEST...

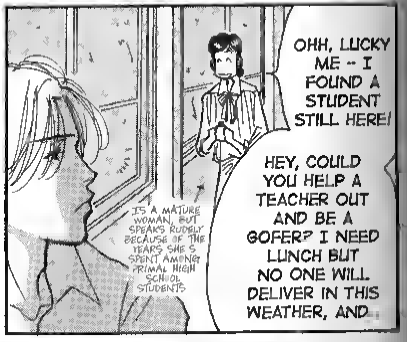
CLATTER!!
OH – I KNEW IT! HERE YOU ARE, GIANT – LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER!!
—WHY ARE YOU HERE?
COME ON, GIANT – LET'S GET OUTTA HERE
THAT'S WHY I'M USING THIS TIME TO HIT ON YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE UNTIL THEN COME ON, LET'S GO HOME
YOU SAID YOU'D WAIT FOR MY ANSWER UNTIL AFTER THE SEMESTER FINALS – WE'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF EXAMS!
OH YEAH – THIS IS THE LIBRARY. SORRY ABOUT THAT!
HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!!
CHATTER CHATTER
DRAG

—NOT AGAIN..

I LOVE YOU.
SHE DIDN'T HEAR.
YOU IDI-...!! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, KOBAYASHI...!!
HE SAYS IT SO CASUALLY
EXCUSE ME I'D LIKE THESE
OH YES TWO BOOKS
SEE?
THWAP!
I'M NOT! I'M STUDYING FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS.
WHY? WITH YOUR GRADES, YOU DON'T NEED TO BE STUDYING FOR THESE TESTS.
NO I'M STAYING
HURRY UP AND GET HOME BEFORE YOUR "LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE" RE-RUNS START
AFTER ALL, I'M THE ONE WHO'S IN LOVE WITH YOU.
I TOLD YOU, I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO.
CLIK CLIK
...JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M PLANNING ON STAYING UNTIL LATE.
SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE. I'M JUST GONNA STUDY FOR MY TESTS
—WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
BAD BAD

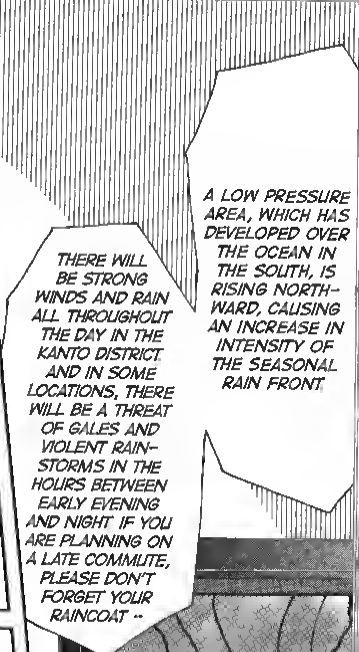
I WISH I COULD JUST GO HOME WITHOUT SEEING THAT IDIOT TODAY...
...IT'S AS IF THE WEATHER IS REFLECTING HOW I FEEL INSIDE RIGHT NOW...
SIGH
PATTER
PATTER
PATTER
PSHAAAA
WHOOOOSH

WHOA!
NEARLY SIGHTED
SURE
DANG, IT'S NARUMI!


OHH, LUCKY ME -- I FOUND A STUDENT STILL HERE!
IT'S A MATURE WOMAN, BUT SPEAKS RUDELY BECAUSE OF THE TEARS SHE'S SPENT AMONG PRIMAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
HEY, COULD YOU HELP A TEACHER OUT AND BE A GOFER? I NEED LUNCH BUT NO ONE WILL DELIVER IN THIS WEATHER, AND...

COOL!
NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO DODGE THAT FOOL FOR TODAY
HUH? SURE, BUT THAT'S KIND OF FAR, ISN'T IT? IS IT REALLY OKAY WITH YOU?
BUT IS IT OKAY IF I GET IT FROM THAT PLACE IN FRONT OF THE PARK? I LIKE THEIR LUNCHES

SO IT'S THE FINAL DAY...
HUUUH? OH POOH -- AND IT'S THE LAST DAY OF SEMESTER FINALS, TOO! NOW WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE!


A LOW PRESSURE AREA, WHICH HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE OCEAN IN THE SOUTH, IS RISING NORTHWARD, CAUSING AN INCREASE IN INTENSITY OF THE SEASONAL RAIN FRONT.
THERE WILL BE STRONG WINDS AND RAIN ALL THROUGHOUT THE DAY IN THE KANTO DISTRICT AND IN SOME LOCATIONS, THERE WILL BE A THREAT OF GALES AND VIOLENT RAINSTORMS IN THE HOURS BETWEEN EARLY EVENING AND NIGHT. IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON A LATE COMMUTE, PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR RAINCOAT --

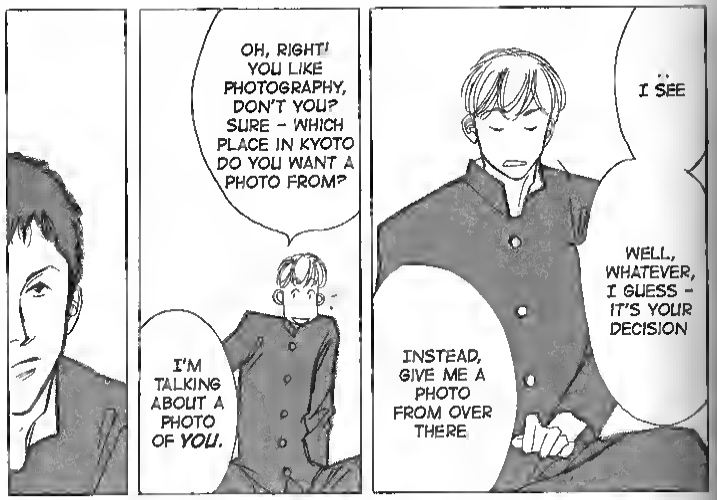
TODAY'S THE DAY I HAVE TO DELIVER A STERN "NO" TO AN UGLY, OVERLY OBSESSIVE SUITOR.
OH?
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY, BROTHER
OH! HOW DARE YOU SPEAK THAT WAY OF A SENSITIVE LADY!
ゴオオオ
HOOOSH

MINE WAS SO OLD THAT THE WIND DEMOLISHED IT, SO I THREW IT OUT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE WITHOUT AN UMBRELLA..?!
FLUTTER
BUCKLE
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN STANDING OUT HERE?!
WHOOOOOSH
IN SIDE-DRIVING RAIN
WHA-
GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER.
IT'S GOTTEN SO LATE - TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME
OH, NO - THANK YOU FOR GOING ALL THAT WAY IN THE RAIN!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE LUNCH
YO.
MAKING SMALL TALK WHILE EATING LUNCH WITH A TEACHER I HAVEN'T DONE THAT SINCE I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH
GRUMP
SHAAAA
THUMP
SHAAA
HUH?! WHAT?! I CAN'T HEAR YOU!!
WHY - ?
WHY DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY BACK HERE?!
SHAAAA
WHEN I WAS LEAVING, I LOOKED IN YOUR SHOE LOCKER - YOUR SHOES WEREN'T THERE, SO I WENT TO YOUR HOUSE. BUT THEY TOLD ME YOU WEREN'T HOME YET, SO..
WHAT IF I HADN'T BEEN HERE, EITHER - ?
BUT WHY WOULD YOU COME ALL THE WAY BACK HERE TO SCHOOL JUST FOR THAT?

THEY'RE THE WORDS I HATE MOST IN THE WORLD!!
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT -_?
WHOOSH
SNAP
WHISH!
CUT IT OUT! STOP KIDDING AROUND!!
CRUNK
BUCKLE
BUCKLE
BUCKLE
WHOOOOSH
I ALREADY TOLD YOU -- IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE Y-
DON'T SAY IT SO CASUALLY_
YOU ARE!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M NOT BEING CASUAL!!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! NEVER MENTION THOSE WORDS TO ME AGAIN! THEY'RE -
SHAAA

SPLAT
SPATTER
SPATTER
SPATTER
FWSH
THEN HOW ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY IT?

ガン
WHAM


OH, RIGHT! YOU LIKE PHOTOGRAPHY, DON'T YOU? SURE - WHICH PLACE IN KYOTO DO YOU WANT A PHOTO FROM?
I'M TALKING ABOUT A PHOTO OF YOU.
..I SEE
WELL, WHATEVER, I GUESS - IT'S YOUR DECISION
INSTEAD, GIVE ME A PHOTO FROM OVER THERE

HA - YOU MORON
WHAT ARE YOU TAKING ME ALL SERIOUS FOR?
HUH ..?
COME ON, MAN - STOP BEING SO CREEPY...

..YOSHIZAKI..

WHOOSH
GIANT!!
GAH?!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME - I'M THE ONE THAT'S HURT!! HEY!!
HATES THE SIGHT OF BLOOD
SWOON

NO, I'M NOT GOING ON THE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP
MY FAMILY HASN'T GOT A CENT TO SPARE AT THE MOMENT... AND BESIDES, I HATE EVERYONE IN OUR ENTIRE CLASS ANYWAY
THEY'RE ALL SUCH IMMATURE BRATS - THEY PISS ME OFF

WAS HE THE GUY THAT WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU?
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU
HEY, GIANT -
IT'S TOO REALISTIC
D- DON'T CALL IT "FLESH"
WHAT
WHO'S YOSHIZAKI?
SHAAAAA
P P-H"
WAS THERE AN INCIDENT WITH HIM?

"...BURRITO, ORANGE, ERASER...RAMEN.. NECTARINE.. EASTER BUNNY!!"
SHAAAA P P-H"
FAINTING SUDDENLY LIKE THAT...WHAT ARE YOU, A WUSS?
AAAH, WHAT COMES NEXT?
SO YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE
IT HURTS
ISSSSHHHH
MY HOUSE I HAD TO CARRY YOU HERE ON MY BACK, IN THE RAIN, WITH THE FLESH RIPPED OPEN IN MY ARM, YOU KNOW!
RINGGG..
WHERE AM I?

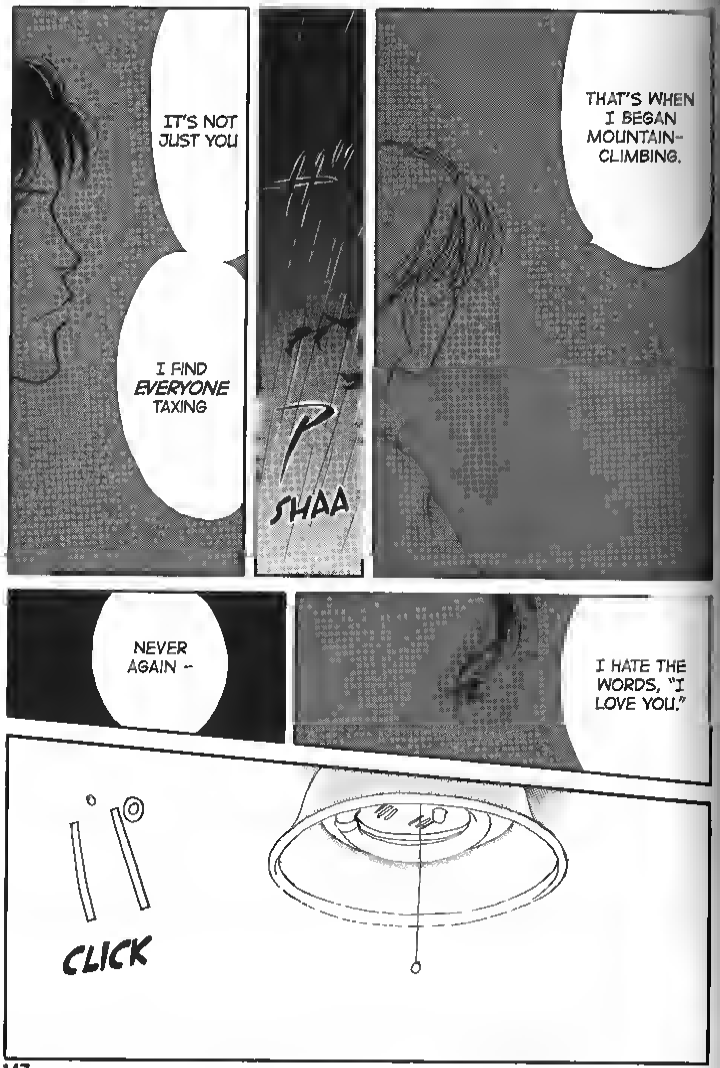
I -
A BLACKOUT
. WHEN I WAS IN MY THIRD YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH THERE WAS THIS GUY WHO TRANSFERRED TO MY SCHOOL FROM THE MOUNTAINS IN NAGANO
IT WAS
GOOD TIMING YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN ME YOUR ANSWER - TELL ME NOW
SHAAA
HIS NAME WAS NAOTO YOSHIZAKI
THERE WAS, WASN'T THERE?
SHAA
NOW THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...AFTER THE COMMERCIAL BREAK -
SNAP

WELL - JUST ENOUGH SO AS NOT TO DISRUPT MY OTHER SOCIAL TIES WITH MY CLASSMATES
WE BECAME FRIENDS.
HE'D COME OVER TO PLAY GAMES AT MY HOUSE, OR I'D GO OVER TO HIS PLACE TO LOOK AT PHOTOS OF THE MOUNTAINS AND TALK.
AS TIME PASSED, HE EVENTUALLY BEGAN TO SPEAK BACK TO ME.
I'M TELLING YOU THIS.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE TIME TO FILE FOR A SCHOOL TRANSFER... I'LL BE GONE FROM HERE TOMORROW
MY DAD'S COMPANY FOLDED
BUT JUST AS THE THIRD SEMESTER OF OUR SENIOR YEAR IN JUNIOR HIGH BEGAN -
BECAUSE IT'S YOU. NO ONE ELSE

...
...
THE THINGS YOU SAY ABOUT YOURSELF
AT THE TIME, I WAS LEADING A CAREFREE SCHOOL LIFE. WITH MY FABULOUS LOOKS, BRAINS AND ATHLETIC ABILITY, I WAS A STUDENT WITH SOCIAL GRACE AND A SENSE OF HUMOR, WHO NEVER HAD TO WORRY ABOUT BEING BULLIED.
SO WHEN I WAS THE ONE TO TALK TO HIM FIRST, IT WAS OUT OF A KIND OF ARROGANCE... THAT I COULD GET ALONG WITH ANYONE, NO MATTER HOW ANTI-SOCIAL THEY WERE.
BUT HE WAS PHYSICALLY WELL-DEVELOPED AND HAD THIS AIR OF MATURITY. WHEN EVERYBODY SAID THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS ABLE TO SPEAK WITH HIM, I FELT SORT OF PROUD ABOUT IT.
AND IN ACTUAL FACT, HE WAS QUITE ANTI-SOCIAL

I...
HEY, NARUMI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?!
WHAT - ARE YOU FIGHTING WITH YOSHIZAKI? HUH - ?
NAH, I THINK IT'S THE OPPOSITE - THEY'RE HOLDIN' HANDS!
!
WHAP

I...
...LOVE YOU
I...
YOSHIZAKI
I...JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT BEFORE I LEFT


IT'S NOT JUST YOU
I FIND EVERYONE TAXING
SHAA
THAT'S WHEN I BEGAN MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING.
NEVER AGAIN --
I HATE THE WORDS, "I LOVE YOU."
CLICK

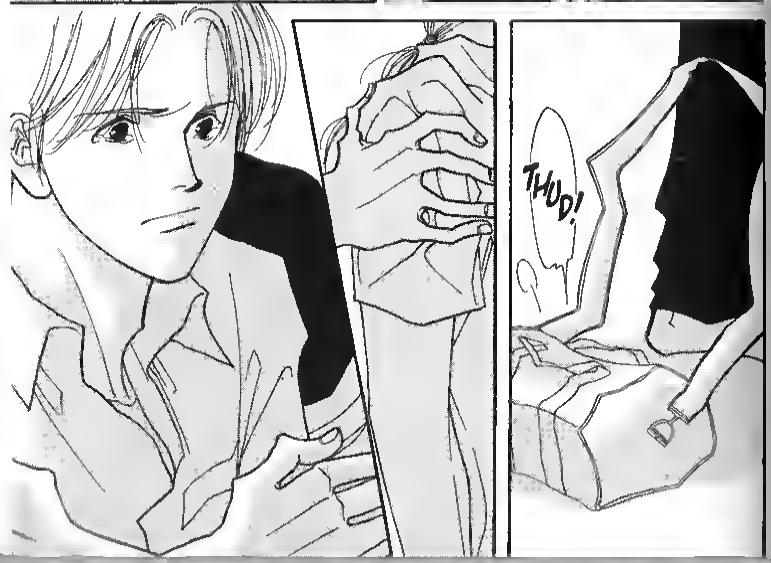
QUIT JOKING AROUND... CREEP!

SHAAAA
SUDDENLY, ALL HUMAN INTERACTION BECAME CUMBERSOME AND ANNOYING TO ME
I THOUGHT "I NEVER WANT TO GO THROUGH SOMETHING SO TROUBLESOME LIKE THAT AGAIN."
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW HIM
NARUMI, YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO JUST LEAVE YOSHIZAKI?
SORRY - I FORGOT CRAM SCHOOL'S EARLY TODAY.
IT WAS NOTHING - LET'S HURRY!
I NEVER SAW WHAT KIND OF LOOK YOSHIZAKI HAD ON HIS FACE THEN.

SHAAAA
CLICK!
PLEASE TRY TO THINK – A WORD THAT BEGINS WITH "W" –
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE THE MOUNTAINS?
I'M LEAVING NEVER SPEAK TO ME AGAIN
THE RAIN IS LETTING UP
CLAK

I NEVER WANT TO HEAR THOSE WORDS AGAIN

BECAUSE YOU'VE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM... ALL THIS TIME.


THUD!

IF YOU JUST WANTED TO BE ALONE, YOU COULD HAVE CHOSEN ANY PLACE.
CRINKLE

YOU CHOSE THE MOUNTAINS BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOSHIZAKI CAME FROM.

I...
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
ET ME GO..!

I LOVE YOU

SHAAAA
END
DO YOU STILL HATE HEARING IT?
—I LOVE YOU.
GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER

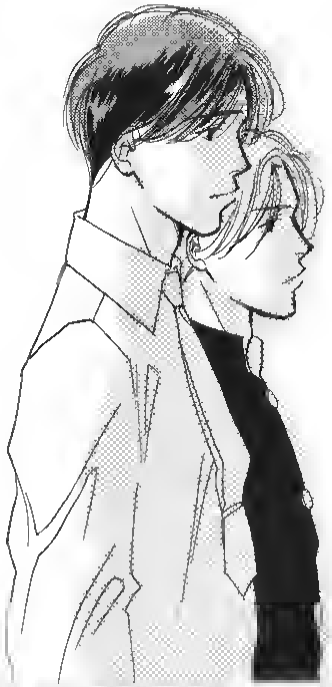
THAT'S BECAUSE I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST ONE WAY OR THE OTHER IN HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX.

EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I'VE BEEN QUICK ON MY FEET AND FAIRLY WELL-BUILT. I WAS THE TYPE TO THROW A PUNCH WHEN ANGRY BUT I NEVER ONCE TEASED NOR HIT A GIRL.

..IT WAS ALL JUST OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS TO ME

BECAUSE OF THAT, THE GUYS STARTED FLOCKING TO ME AS WELL, FOR ADVICE. BUT -

BUT WHEN I GOT INTO JUNIOR HIGH, THAT DISINTEREST SOMEHOW SEEMED TO MAKE ME MORE ATTRACTIVE TO THEM



HEY, TEACH -
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT TWO GUYS DO WHEN THEY'RE HAVING SEX?
SOCIAL STUDIES
SO.. UH..
I'M SORRY
THAT'S KIND OF PRIVATE..
TH..

..HEY

IT'S KIND OF ANNOYING TO OTHERS WHEN A STUDENT FACING COLLEGE EXAMS SHOWS OFF HIS CONFIDENCE BY TAKING TOO MUCH LEISURE TIME
AFTER CLIMBING HODAKA FOR ONE LAST TIME IN THE SUMMER, GIANT QUIT MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING. ALTOGETHER.

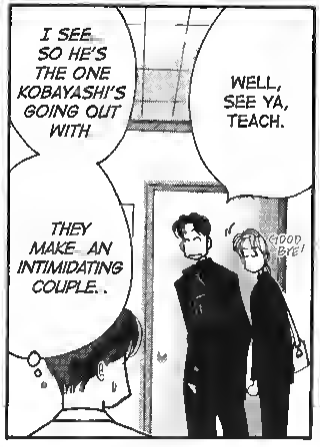
BECAUSE EVER SINCE YOU DID IT THE FIRST TIME, I MISSED MY TIMING TO RESIST...AND IT'S BEEN DRAGGING ON LIKE THAT EVER SINCE!
WHY DO YOU ALLOW ME TO KISS YOU?

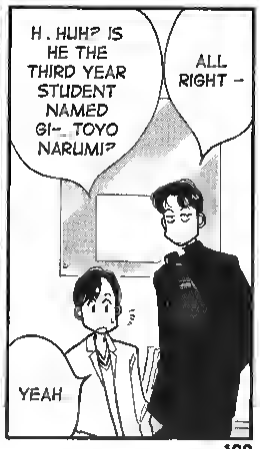
KOBAYASHI!
NEVER MIND, THEN
BACKS OFF SURPRISINGLY EASILY
WHEW

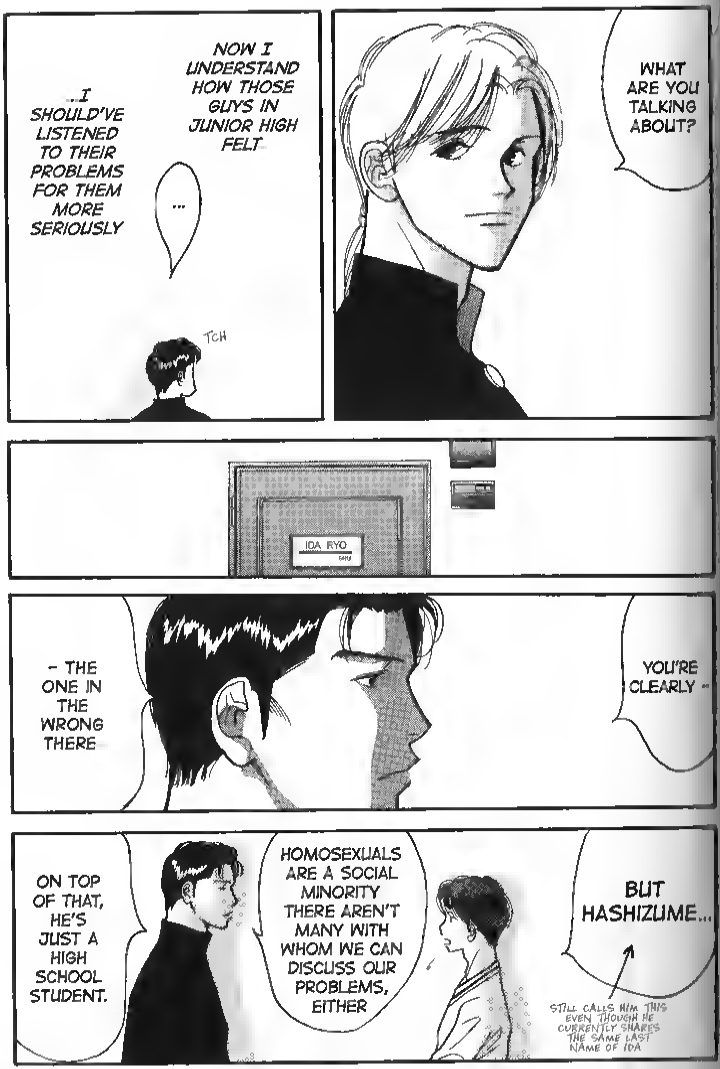
OKAY

LET'S GO HOME!

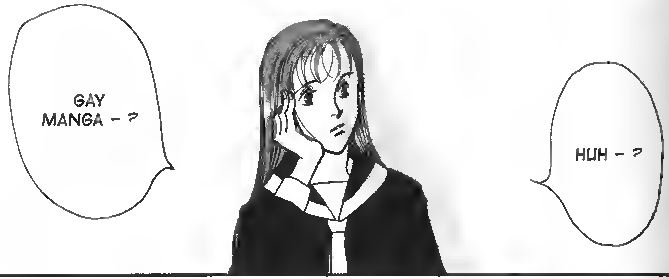
GIANT COMES OVER TO MY HOUSE EVERY OTHER DAY

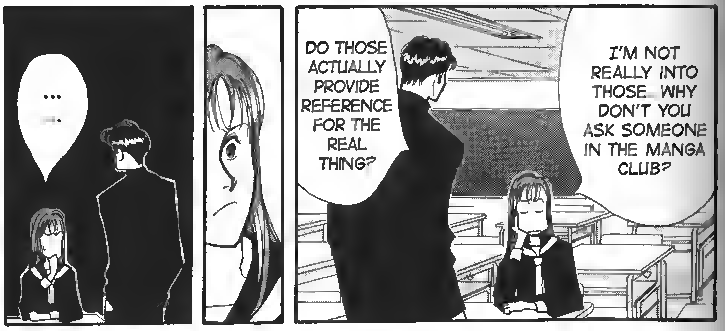

I SEE. SO HE'S THE ONE KOBAYASHI'S GOING OUT WITH.
WELL, SEE YA, TEACH.
THEY MAKE AN INTIMIDATING COUPLE..
GOOD BYE!

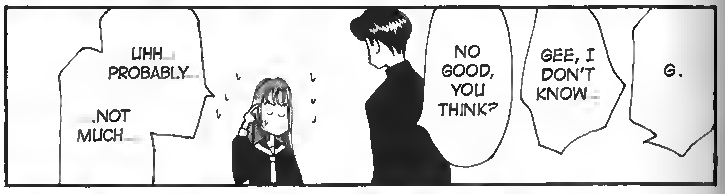

H. HUH? IS HE THE THIRD YEAR STUDENT NAMED GI-_TOYO NARUMI?
ALL RIGHT -
YEAH

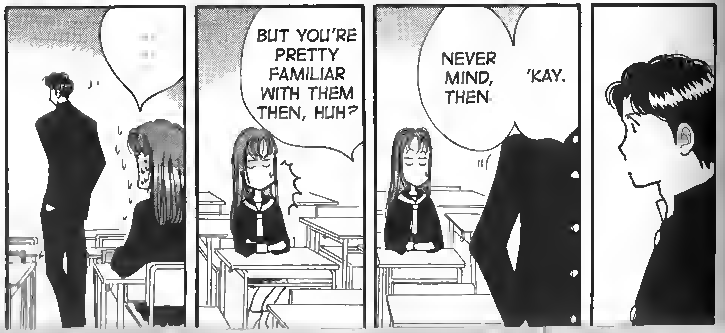

...I SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO THEIR PROBLEMS FOR THEM MORE SERIOUSLY
NOW I UNDERSTAND HOW THOSE GUYS IN JUNIOR HIGH FELT...
...
TCH
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IDA RYO
- THE ONE IN THE WRONG THERE...
YOU'RE CLEARLY -
ON TOP OF THAT, HE'S JUST A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
HOMOSEXUALS ARE A SOCIAL MINORITY THERE AREN'T MANY WITH WHOM WE CAN DISCUSS OUR PROBLEMS, EITHER
BUT HASHIZUME...
STILL CALLS HIM THIS EVEN THOUGH HE CURRENTLY SHARES THE SAME LAST NAME OF IDA

HE EVEN KISSES ME.
AND HE SMILES A BIT MORE THAN BEFORE.
HE'S SLOWLY BEGUN TO MAKE A FEW FRIENDS -
MATSUDA
OKAMURA
SUGIHARA
DO YOU LOVE ME?
HEY...
SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW...
BUT...
GIANT -

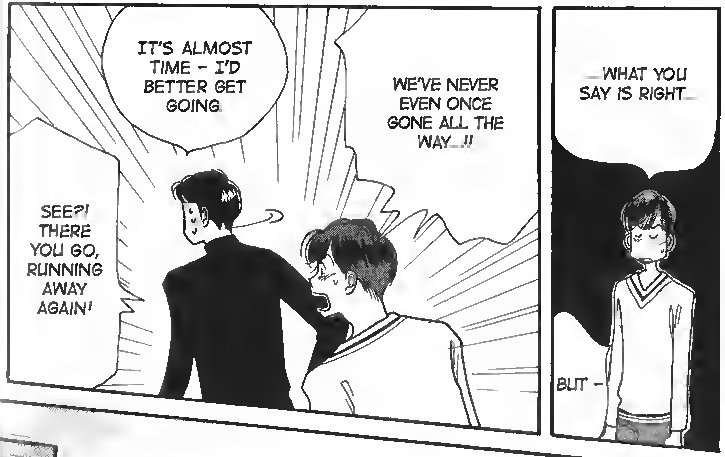

GAY MANGA – ?
HUH – ?

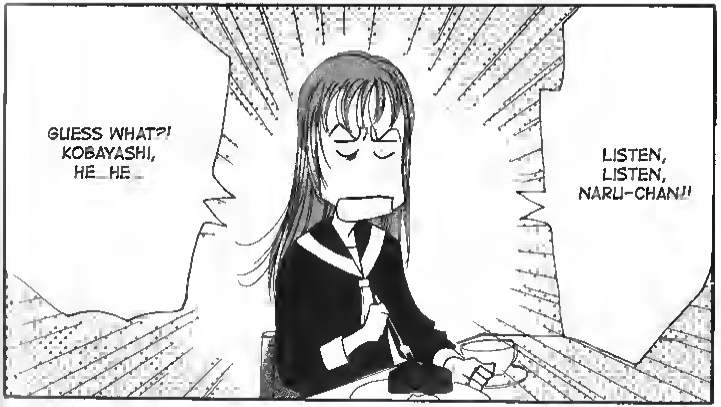

...
DO THOSE ACTUALLY PROVIDE REFERENCE FOR THE REAL THING?
I'M NOT REALLY INTO THOSE... WHY DON'T YOU ASK SOMEONE IN THE MANGA CLUB?

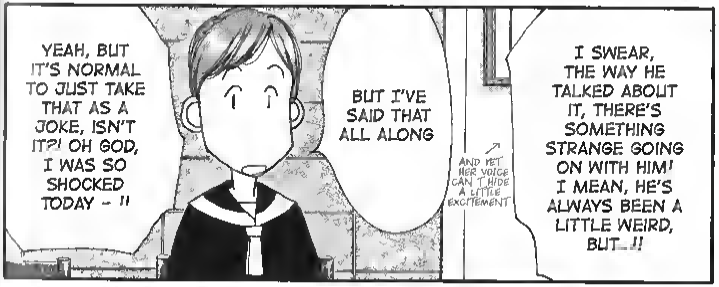

UHH... PROBABLY...
...NOT MUCH...
NO GOOD, YOU THINK?
GEE, I DON'T KNOW...
G.

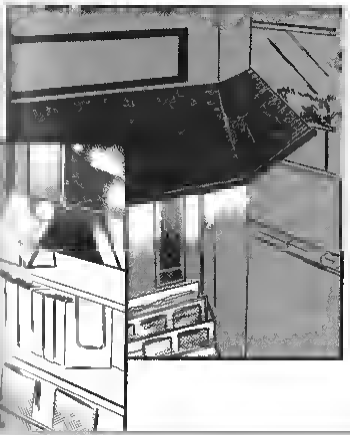

BUT YOU'RE PRETTY FAMILIAR WITH THEM THEN, HUH?
NEVER MIND, THEN.
'KAY.

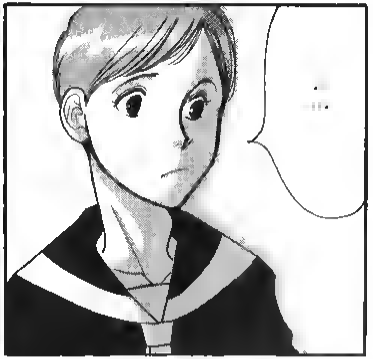
IF HE CAN'T ASK YOU, WHO ELSE CAN HE ASK?


IT'S ALMOST TIME – I'D BETTER GET GOING.
WE'VE NEVER EVEN ONCE GONE ALL THE WAY...!!
SEE?! THERE YOU GO, RUNNING AWAY AGAIN!
...WHAT YOU SAY IS RIGHT...
BUT –

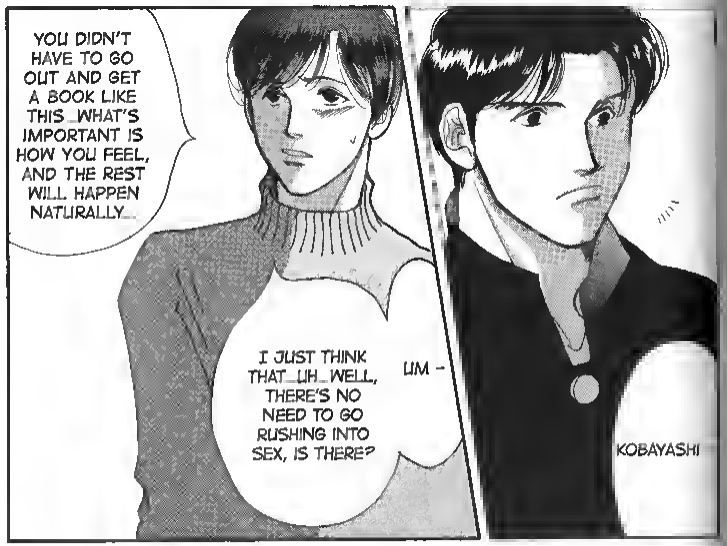

GUESS WHAT?! KOBAYASHI, HE_HE_
LISTEN, LISTEN, NARU-CHAN!!

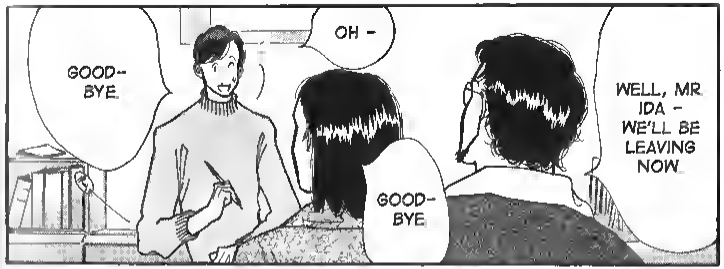

YEAH, BUT IT'S NORMAL TO JUST TAKE THAT AS A JOKE, ISN'T IT?! OH GOD, I WAS SO SHOCKED TODAY - !!
BUT I'VE SAID THAT ALL ALONG
AND YET HER VOICE CAN'T HIDE A LITTLE EXCITEMENT
I SWEAR, THE WAY HE TALKED ABOUT IT, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON WITH HIM! I MEAN, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE WEIRD, BUT_!!

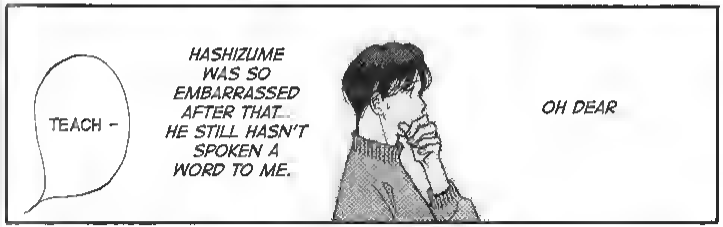




THE STOREFRONT WAS TOTALLY SEEDY, BUT THE OWNER WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY FRIENDLY...
AT SHINJUKU'S NI-CHOME
HE RECOMMENDED THAT ONE
W...WHERE DID YOU GET SOMETHING LIKE THIS..?


YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO OUT AND GET A BOOK LIKE THIS...WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS HOW YOU FEEL, AND THE REST WILL HAPPEN NATURALLY...
I JUST THINK THAT...UH...WELL, THERE'S NO NEED TO GO RUSHING INTO SEX, IS THERE?
UM -
HIIN
KOBAYASHI


GOOD-BYE
OH -
GOOD-BYE
WELL, MR. IDA - WE'LL BE LEAVING NOW


TEACH -
HASHIZUME WAS SO EMBARRASSED AFTER THAT... HE STILL HASN'T SPOKEN A WORD TO ME.
OH DEAR

GRINKLE
?

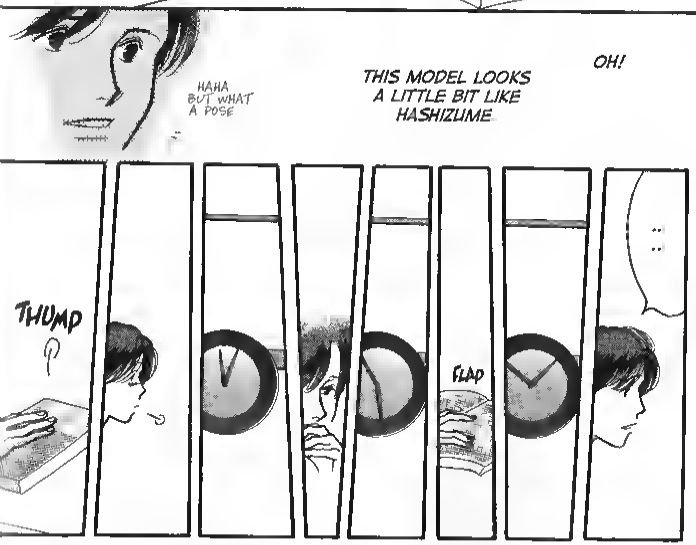
I ALREADY READ IT, SO YOU CAN HAVE IT.
MY PARENTS MIGHT FIND IT IF I KEEP IT AT HOME.
ガシャ!!
THUNK!!
O...OH, HI - WHAT IS IT?
HERE

THAT'S WAY MORE EMBARRASSING THAN HAVING TO GO BUY THAT BOOK.
BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DECIDE TO HAVE SEX BECAUSE WE LOVE EACH OTHER, AND I'M NOT ABLE TO MAKE THE OTHER GUY FEEL GOOD AT ALL?
KOBAYASHI!
SURE, EVEN I HESITATED A LITTLE WHEN BUYING IT, BUT...

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
IS IT SO UNNATURAL TO WANT TO DO IT WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE?
I'M...
...IN LOVE WITH THE GUY.

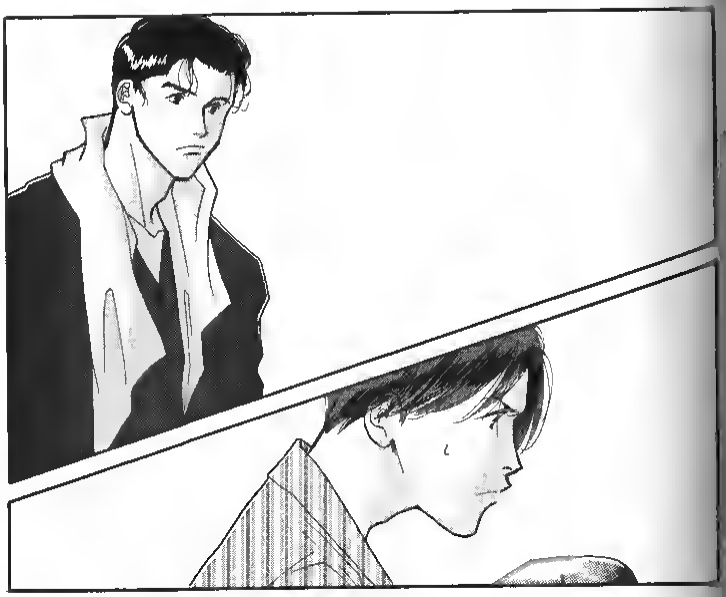
TAKE THAT BOOK FOR ME, WILL YA?
SEE YA, TEACH.
OKAY! QUIT RUSHING ME LIKE SOME OLD MAN!
LET'S GO!
KOBAYASHI!
...
I'LL ACCEPT IT WITH THANKS TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME.
OK
..THAT'S WHAT I SAID, BUT..
IDA RYO
SHU
...
SLOWLY
HMMM
WOW - ..
BA-THUMP BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP BA-THUMP
WHO
THWAP!!

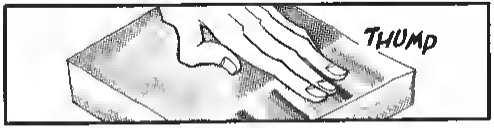
FLAP

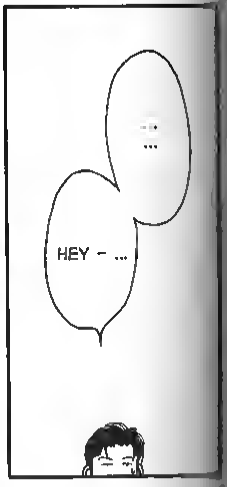

OH!
THIS MODEL LOOKS A LITTLE BIT LIKE HASHIZUME
HAHA BUT WHAT A POSE
THUMP
FLAP

I WONDER...
IF HASHIZUME'S EVER READ A BOOK LIKE THIS...
NO, I'M SURE HE HASN'T - HE SEEMS WAY MORE NAÏVE THAN I AM. HE'S PROBABLY NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT..
"BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DECIDE TO HAVE SEX BECAUSE WE LOVE EACH OTHER, AND I'M NOT ABLE TO MAKE THE OTHER GUY FEEL GOOD AT ALL?"

I'M WRONG -
HASHIZUME HAS THOUGHT ABOUT IT.



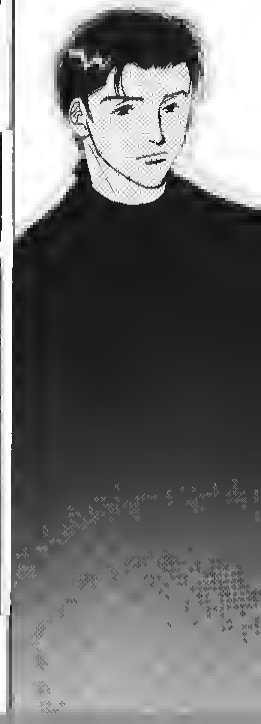


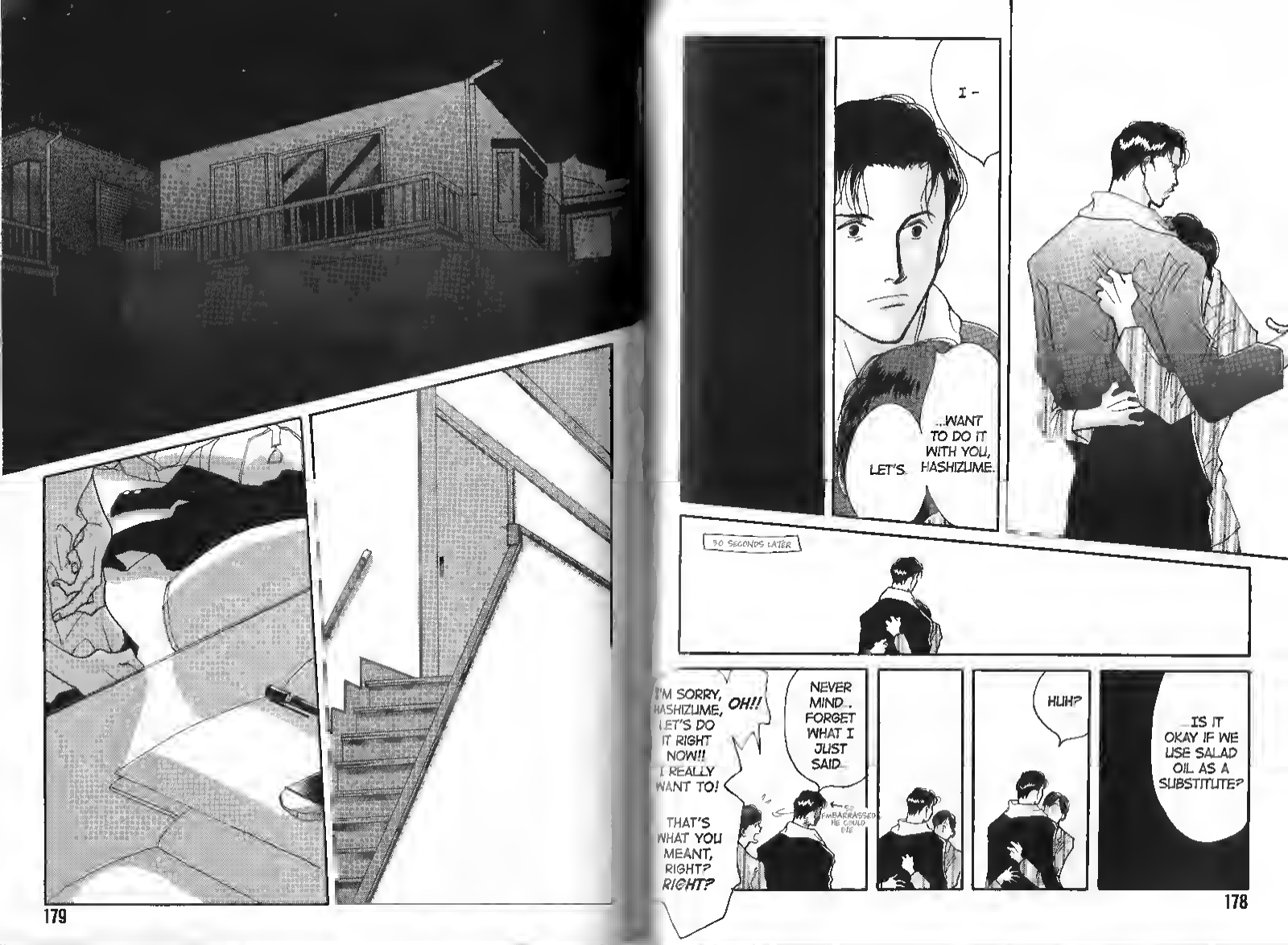


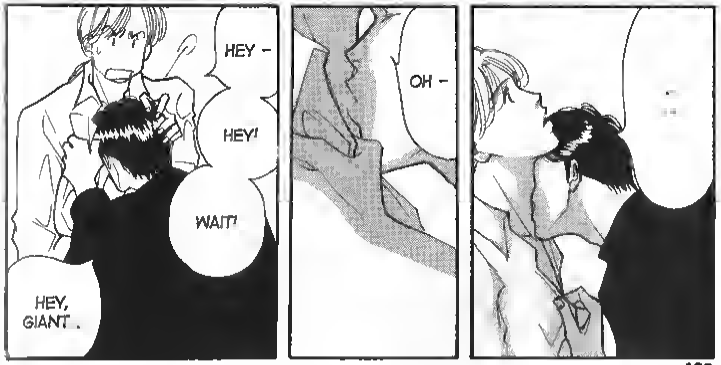
IT'S NOT THAT HASHIZUME DOESN'T KNOW

HE'S JUST PRETENDING HE DOESN'T KNOW BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW

"IF HE CAN'T ASK YOU, WHO ELSE CAN HE ASK?"




I -
...WANT TO DO IT WITH YOU, HASHIZUME.
LET'S
30 SECONDS LATER
IS IT OKAY IF WE USE SALAD OIL AS A SUBSTITUTE?
HUH?
NEVER MIND.. FORGET WHAT I JUST SAID.
I'M SORRY, HASHIZUME, LET'S DO IT RIGHT NOW!! I REALLY WANT TO!
OH!!
THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT, RIGHT? RIGHT?
SO EMBARRASSED HE COULD DIE

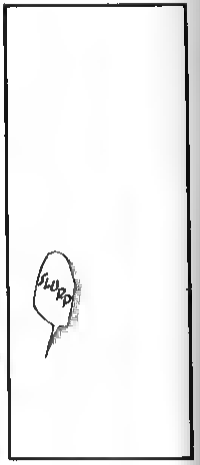

HEY –
HEY!
WAIT!
HEY, GIANT.
OH –

I'M NOT LETTING YOU – WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SEX TODAY.
IF YOU'RE GONNA START WITH THAT AGAIN, I'M LEAVING
DO YOU LOVE ME?

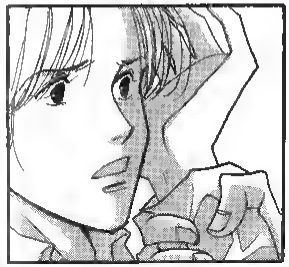
I THINK THAT WOULD BE A MISTAKE... IT'D BE BETTER FOR BOTH OF US IF WE DIDN'T
...KOBAYASHI
THAT'S NOT TRUE – I READ IT FEELS REALLY GOOD FOR BOTH THE ONE WHO'S ENTERING AND THE ONE BEING ENTERED WHEN IT'S TWO GUYS

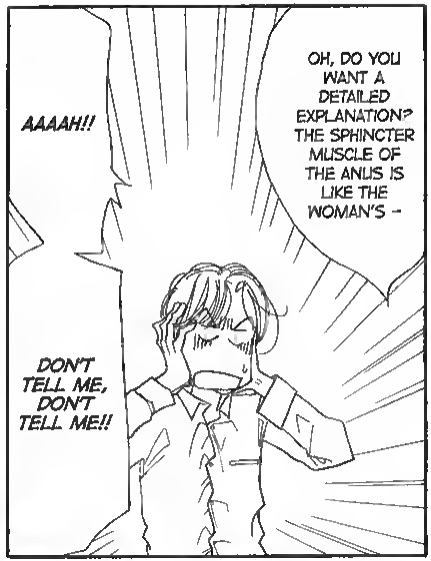
N_
NO!!

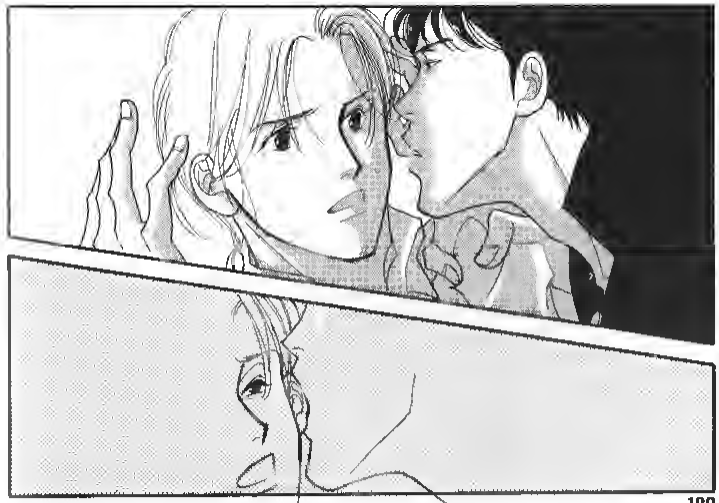
OH -


slurp

IF WE GO ANY FURTHER, RIKUKO IS SURE TO FIND OUT ABOUT US!!

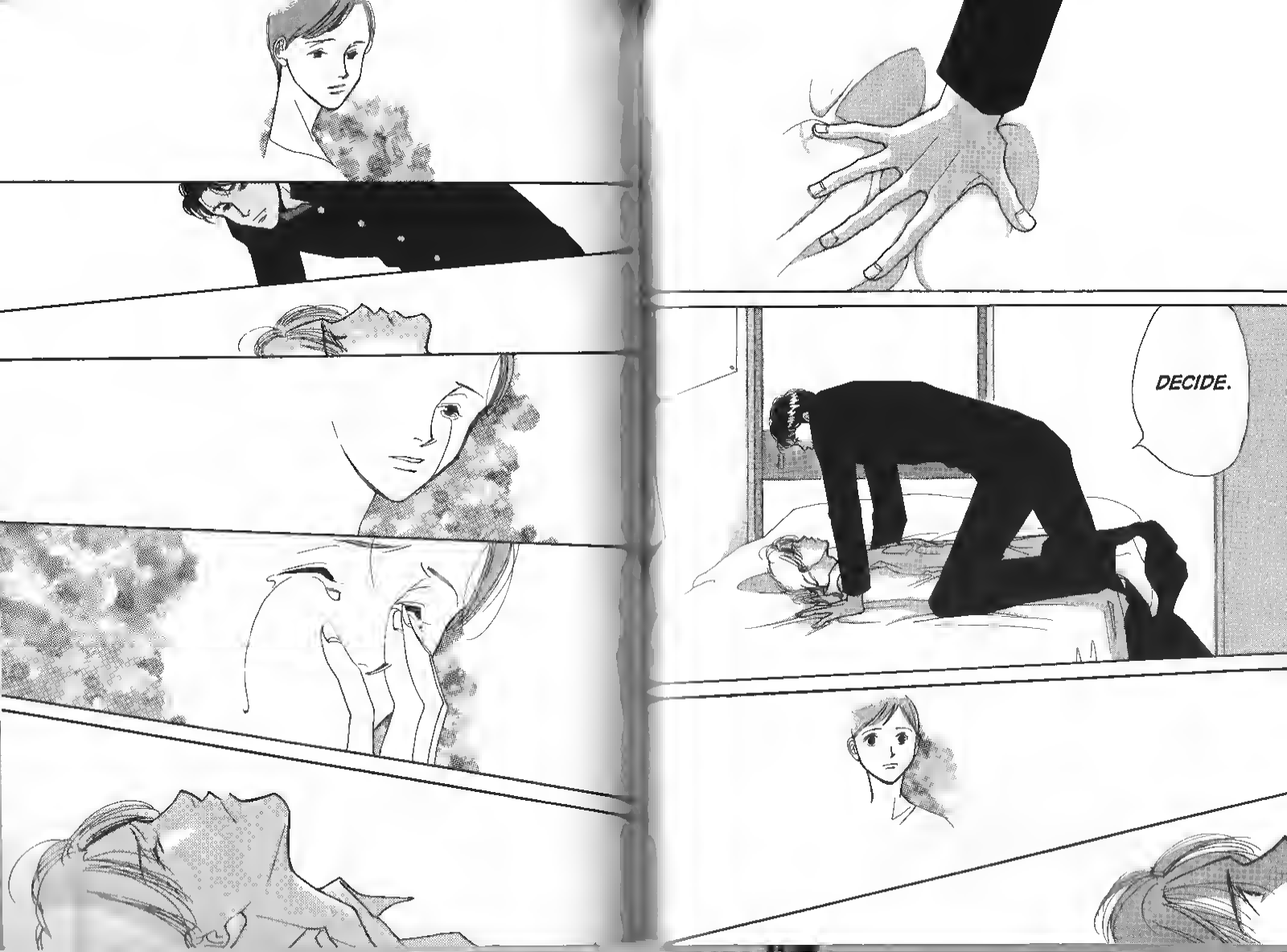



OH, DO YOU WANT A DETAILED EXPLANATION? THE SPHINCTER MUSCLE OF THE ANUS IS LIKE THE WOMAN'S -
AAAAH!!
DON'T TELL ME, DON'T TELL ME!!



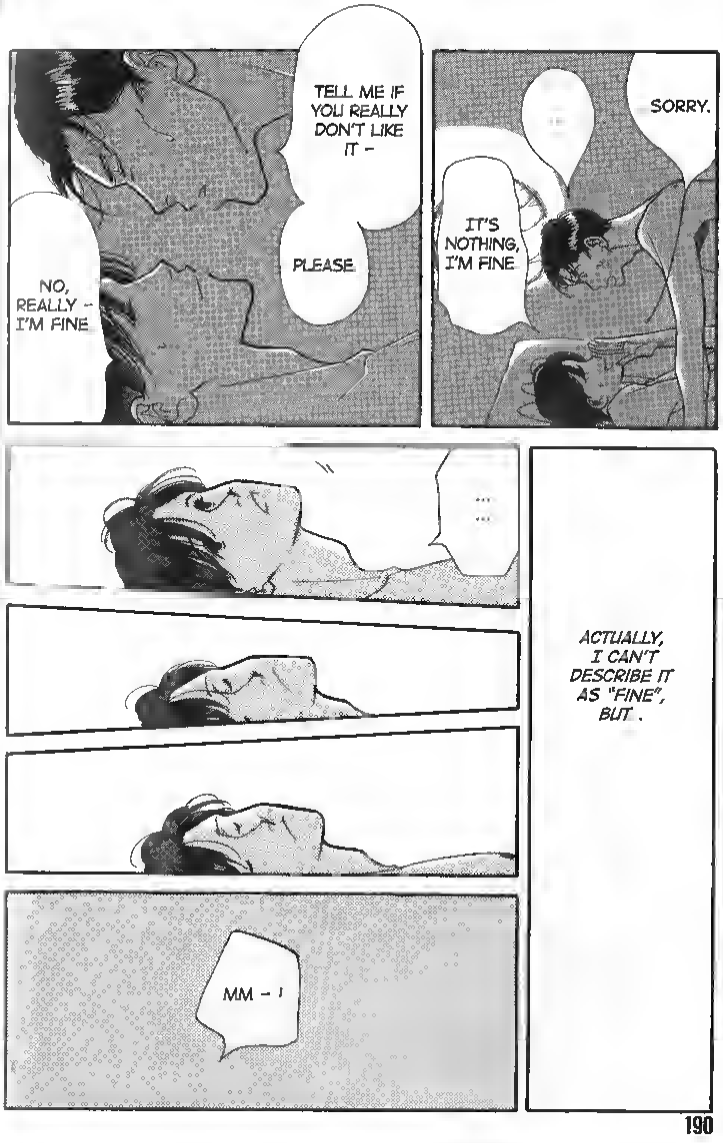
THEN THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON I CAN'T GIVE YOU UP JUST BECAUSE IT MAY END UP HURTING NARU-CHAN!
I WOULDN'T HAVE KISSED YOU IF I DIDN'T...
...
BUT...
IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY IF YOU SAY YOUR LITTLE SISTER'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU!
CREAK

THEN ..!!
PROBABLY
THEN WHY DID YOU RETURN MY KISS?
THINK OF HOW HURT RIKUKO WILL BE!! EVEN NOW, RIKUKO IS -
NOT LIKE ME?
DO YOU


DECIDE.

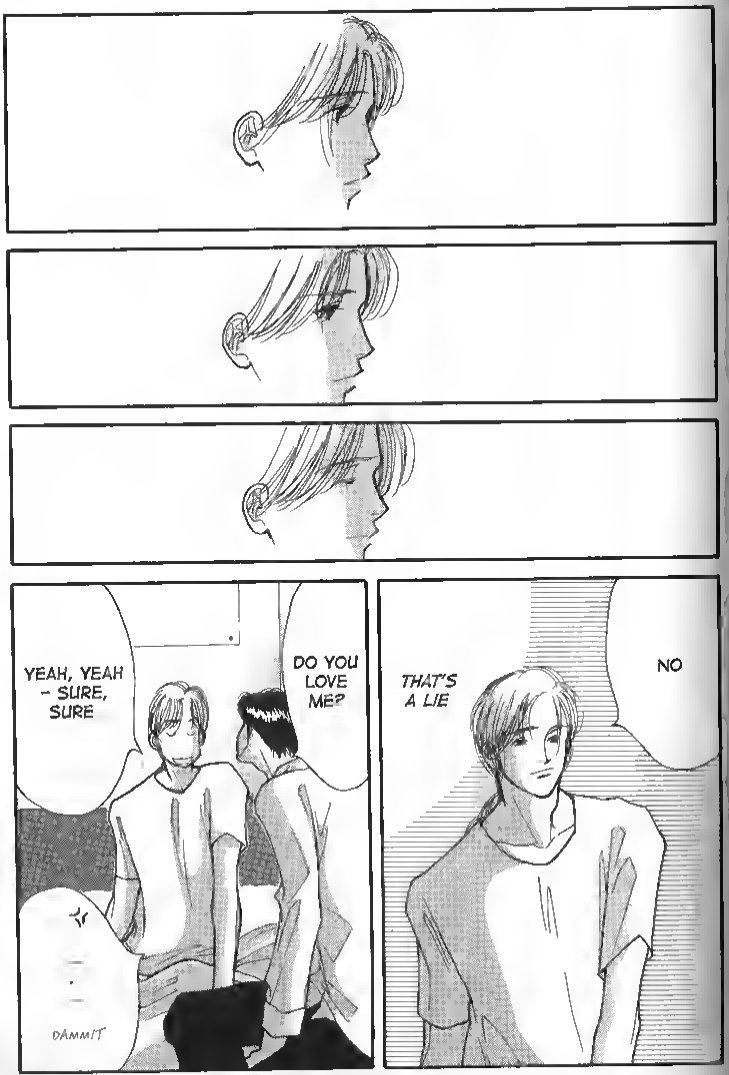
OH!
NO –
DON'T...!
OH –
びくっ
JOLT

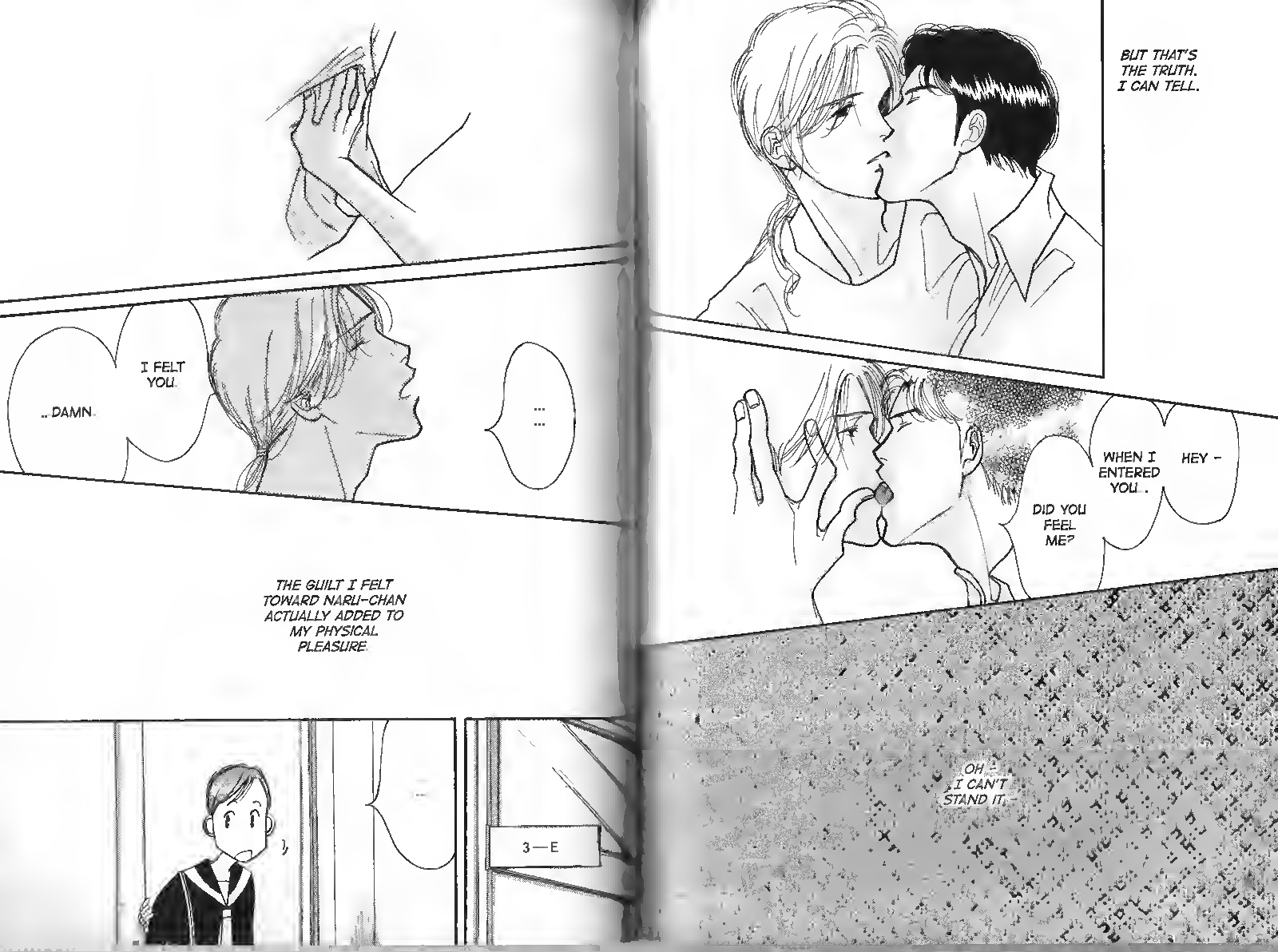
OH –
DON'T!
UNH...
IT'S..
UM –
...I MEAN – !
... ...!
IT'S GOOD –
OH!
OH!
SHIVER
OHH..!!
OH –


TELL ME IF YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE IT –
PLEASE.
NO, REALLY – I'M FINE.
SORRY.
IT'S NOTHING, I'M FINE.
...
...
MM – !
ACTUALLY, I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT AS "FINE", BUT.

WH -
DON'T ASK ME
WHAT THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW...?
FOR HOW LONG?!
...UNTIL NARU-CHAN GETS A BOYFRIEND
FOR NOW, I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP IT SECRET FROM NARU-CHAN
YES, IT'S ACTUALLY A BIGGER PROBLEM FOR GIANT THAN IT IS FOR KOBAYASHI
DAMN... I'M AN IDIOT. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FACE RIKUKO AT HOME TONIGHT...?
SIGH...
WHEW
...
...
WHEW~

WE CAN SEE EACH OTHER ONLY AT MY HOUSE, AND TRY TO AVOID EACH OTHER DURING SCHOOL.
...THEN, WHEN THINGS HAVE SETTLED DOWN, WE CAN "COME OUT" TO HER...
ARE YOU REGRETTING IT?
OF COURSE I DON'T!
YOU'D BETTER HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO CARRY THIS THROUGH!


YEAH, YEAH - SURE, SURE
DO YOU LOVE ME?
DAMMIT
THAT'S A LIE
NO

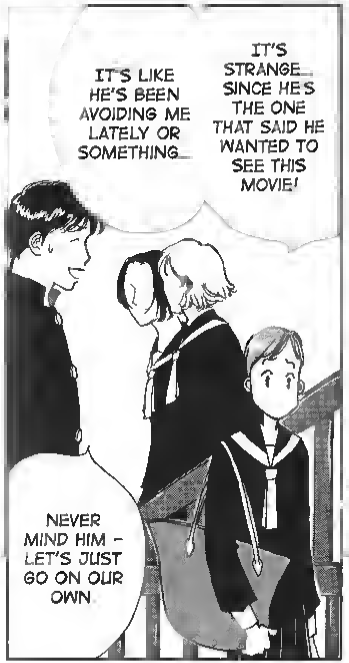

BUT THAT'S THE TRUTH. I CAN TELL.
HEY –
WHEN I ENTERED YOU . .
DID YOU FEEL ME?
OH – I CAN'T STAND IT. –
.. DAMN.
I FELT YOU.
...
...
THE GUILT I FELT TOWARD NARU-CHAN ACTUALLY ADDED TO MY PHYSICAL PLEASURE.
...
3—E

I'M HOME -
CREAK

SWEET POTATO PIE. THE TEA'S JUST READY, TOO. WILL YOU HAVE SOME?
SWEETS AGAIN?

GOT IT
OH, YES - JUST ONE, THEN

WELCOME HOME


IT'S LIKE HE'S BEEN AVOIDING ME LATELY OR SOMETHING...
IT'S STRANGE... SINCE HE'S THE ONE THAT SAID HE WANTED TO SEE THIS MOVIE!
NEVER MIND HIM - LET'S JUST GO ON OUR OWN

O_OH, REALLY?
OHHH -
BROTHER'S NOT HERE AGAIN AND I ASKED HIM TO WAIT FOR ME TODAY, TOO!
3-E

HUH?!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I MEAN - REALLY? WELL, WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
HAHA- HAHA...
EVEN WITH SOMEONE LIKE MY BROTHER, YOU NEVER USED TO SAY THINGS LIKE THAT...

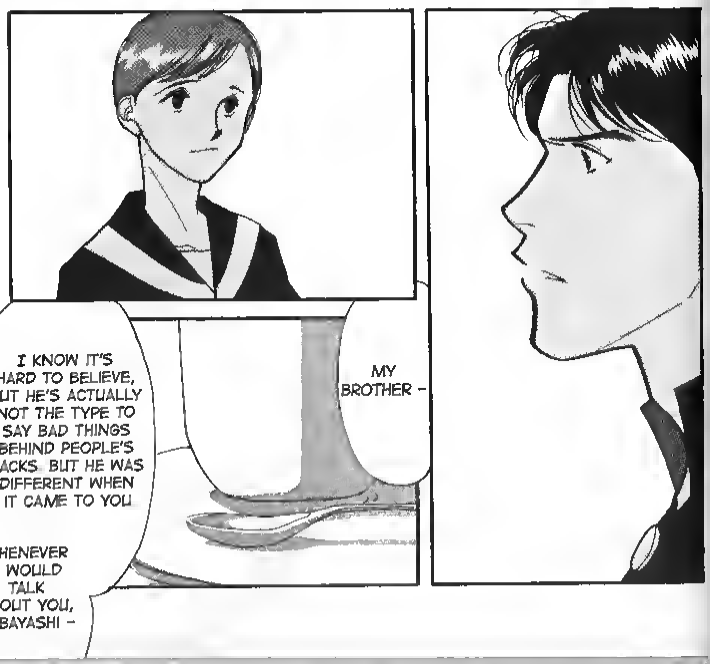
OH, BUT IT'S DELICIOUS WHEN YOU MAKE THEM, SO...
SORRY TO FORCE MY SWEET TOOTH ON YOU...
AREN'T YOU GOING TO BRING SOME TO NAKAI-SAN AND THE OTHERS AGAIN?
THEY MAY NOT ACCEPT IT.
...HASHIZUME.
WHY?
I EXPLAINED TO EVERYONE AT WORK TODAY THE REASON FOR MY NAME CHANGE... AND ABOUT US LIVING TOGETHER.

AND BRING THE PASTRIES DON'T WORRY, YOURS ARE ALWAYS DELICIOUS
IDA...
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BE LEAVING SOON, RIGHT? I'LL WALK YOU TO THE TRAIN STATION.
ME, TOO
LET'S GO TO THE SPAGHETTI SHOP AT THE STATION'S SOUTHERN ENTRANCE. IT'S OPEN ALR...
I'M SO HUNGRY -

THE PERSON YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH NOW... IT'S MY BROTHER - RIGHT, KOBAYASHI?
UM...
...
...

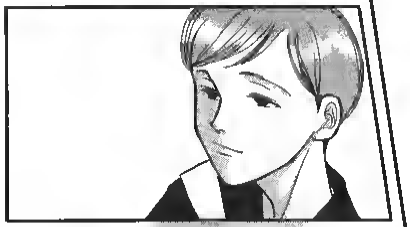
NO KIDDING! THAT GUY'S LAST LINE? UNFORGIVABLE! I'VE GOTTA COMPLAIN TO GIANT LATER ABOUT THIS -
IT...
...WASN'T VERY GOOD, WAS IT
OH -
WHAT?
YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH EACH OTHER, RIGHT?
UH -
NO, I MEANT - HAHAH... RECENTLY HE AND I HAVEN'T -
HUH?!
...

BECAUSE – IT HURTS MY PRIDE AS YOUR FRIEND


I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY NOT THE TYPE TO SAY BAD THINGS BEHIND PEOPLE'S BACKS. BUT HE WAS DIFFERENT WHEN IT CAME TO YOU.
WHENEVER I WOULD TALK ABOUT YOU, KOBAYASHI –
MY BROTHER –

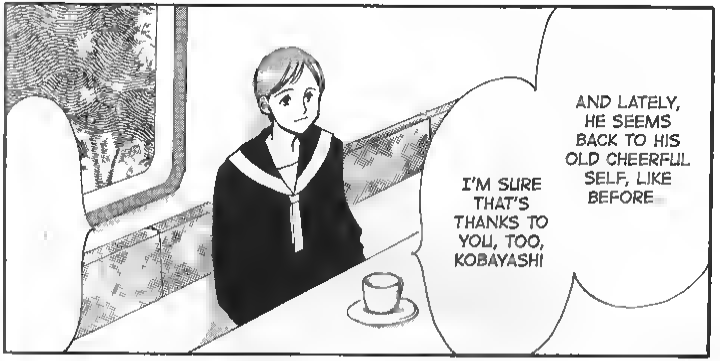
OF COURSE.
ARE YOU MAD?

BUT DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME – IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU AND MY BROTHER ARE SEEING EACH OTHER.
– I'M MAD BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT IT HONESTLY. THAT'S WHAT I REALLY HATE.



SOMEHOW, I THINK I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN ALL ALONG...

HE WOULD LIGHT UP SO HAPPILY AS HE TALKED TRASH ABOUT YOU



TAKE CARE
HM?
HASHIZUME
...
...
HUH...? OVER THERE...I THINK THAT MAY BE A STUDENT FROM MY SCHOOL...
OH -
WHAT'S WRONG?

IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I'D LIKE US TO STAY FRIENDS - NOW AND ALWAYS

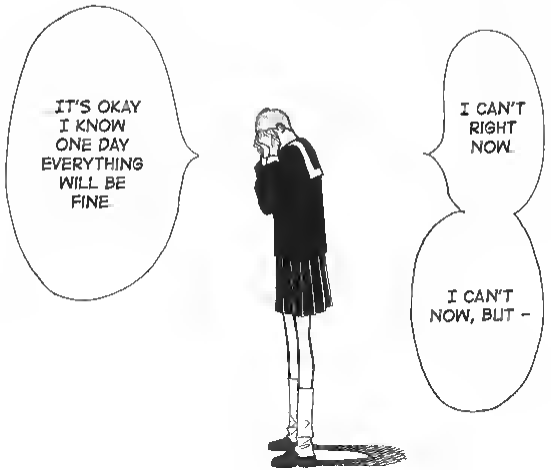
NO –
OH…
TH… THANK YOU, BUT…
YOU CAN KEEP IT. PLEASE TAKE IT WITH YOU
S…
…OH –
GOOD EVENING, TEACHER

THE UNIFORM…
I KNEW IT!
OH –
YOU SURE ARE LUCKY OUR SCHOOL REGULATIONS ARE ON THE LENIENT SIDE… WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE –
HEY, IT'S NARUMI, FORMERLY OF CLASS 1– H!

OH –
OKAY, SEE YOU.
WELL, I'VE GOT TO GET TO WORK –
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
CLUNK
DING DONG
DING DONG
BUSTLE
YES?!
NARUMI –
FOR NOW, JUST GET YOURSELF TO A CAFÉ SOMEWHERE AND HAVE SOMETHING WARM TO CALM YOU DOWN.

OKAY?
I'M SORRY

JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME –
THEN I'M SURE –


IT'S OKAY I KNOW ONE DAY EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE
I CAN'T RIGHT NOW
I CAN'T NOW, BUT –

TIME...

WE'LL EACH HAVE FOUND OUR PLACE TO BELONG...
END